



BRIEF SKETCH

OF THE

HISTORY

OF

LEICESTER ACADEMY.

PART I.

By EMORY WASHBURN.

BOSTON:
PHILLIPS, SAMPSON AND COMPANY,
No. 13 WINTER STREET.
1855.

PRESS OF THE
Franklin Printing House,
Corner of Franklin and Hawley Streets,
BOSTON.

Preface.

THE circumstances under which this little work was undertaken, were these :

In 1851, the trustees of Leicester Academy appointed a committee of their number to prepare a brief history of the academy, including the Charter, and, so far as able, a catalogue of the students, and such other matter as they might deem proper for publication.

The writer of this report was placed at the head of that commission, and as opportunity, among various pressing engagements, has enabled him so to do, he has pursued the investigation, till he has put into form what is contained in the following pages.

The work is far from being complete, but, to the extent to which it is here presented, it has been intended that it should be entire. Whatever, therefore, may be to be added, will relate to topics not embraced in the present publication.

This part of the work is now published, from the uncertainty when the balance can be completed, and a desire expressed by many persons to be possessed of it, even in its present imperfect state.

For the opinions and sentiments embraced in this report, no one of the committee, except the chairman, is responsible. By none of them has a page of it been read before publication.

He has availed himself of their aid, as he has of many other sources, in gathering his materials, some of which are acknowledged in the body of the work. Among those not otherwise named, he is happy to mention his associates upon the committee, Rev. Mr. Allen, Rev. Dr. Nelson, and J. A. Denny, Esq., besides the Hon. Judge Morris, Dr. James Jackson, S. F. Haven, Esq., S. Jenison, Esq., and O. Hutchins, Esq., formerly a preceptor of the academy, as among those to whom he is indebted for the means of accomplishing, thus far, his humble task.

Should the trustees, hereafter, by means of his leisure and opportunity, or otherwise, be able to complete this work, by adding anything like a full catalogue of those who have shared in the instruction of the academy, it would be found an interesting record of the wide-spread influence of an institution which has hitherto been fostered by the public favor, and has repaid, by its success, the debt of gratitude thereby imposed upon its officers and teachers.

To the Trustees of Leicester Academy.

GENTLEMEN : Much time has elapsed since I was honored by your commission to collect, for preservation, materials for the history of Leicester Academy.

Circumstances beyond my control, as well as the nature of the duty, have irresistibly led to this delay.

To such as are familiar with the process of collecting historical facts from such sources as are open in an enterprise like the present, it is unnecessary for me to explain the difficulties to be encountered, even in so humble a work as that in which I have been engaged.

To one who has never made the effort, it would be difficult to make these intelligible. And yet I should be doing injustice to the task in which I have been engaged, if I failed to acknowledge the pleasure I have derived from it.

It has awakened anew the pleasant memories of the past, and called back many, whom, in early life, I learned to regard with veneration and respect.

If no other good can result from the materials which I here offer for your acceptance, they will serve to evince how earnest and sincere have been the endeavors of its trustees and instructors to meet the increasing demands of a progressive age, and how sedulously they have labored that the course of instruction here pursued, should come up to the standard which an enlightened and expanded system of education in its advance has, from time to time, required.

The end at which I have chiefly aimed is accuracy. Indeed, it would be little better than hopeless to attempt to work into a homogeneous and consistent, consecutive narrative, isolated parts and incidents gleaned from scanty and imperfect records, paragraphs from newspapers or occasional pamphlets, or the fading and indistinct recollections of aged persons.

My greatest difficulty has been to learn the names and history of those who have been connected with the institution as benefactors, trustees, pre-

ceptors, or pupils. Many of those, from having never been in public office, or from only a brief connection with the academy, have not left memorials which I have been able to discover. I may, therefore, have unconsciously done injustice to many who have merited a particular notice in a work like this.

I cheerfully acknowledge my indebtedness to many gentlemen in the accomplishment of my task, and among them I cannot omit to mention the late Gov. CRAFTS, of Vermont, and DANIEL HENSHAW, Esq., of Boston, and GEORGE DAVIS, Esq., of Sturbridge; their recollections of Teachers and Pupils have aided me much.

The arrangement of the materials which I have obtained, which I propose to adopt is :

- I. The Origin and Organization of the Academy.
- II. The System of Discipline and Instruction adopted from time to time, including Text Books, Examinations, Public Exhibitions, etc.
- III. The Condition of the Funds, from time to time, including the Real Estate belonging to the Academy, the origin, application, and amount of these Funds, and personal notices of some of its Benefactors.
- IV. Personal notices of the several Trustees.
- V. Personal notices of the Preceptors and Teachers.
- VI. Miscellaneous notices, Commons, Stewards, Distinguished Men and Pupils of the Academy, etc., etc.

In the hope that this may serve to snatch from oblivion incidents in the history of this venerable institution, and the names and characters of some of its benefactors, which are fast fading from memory, I have felt almost as if I were performing a filial duty while executing the task in behalf of the committee to whom you assigned this duty.

For the good it has already done, and the good it has yet in store to do, Leicester Academy has a high claim upon the public gratitude and favor. And if this sketch of her history shall do something to impress this upon the public mind, the work will not have been in vain.

I am happy to bear testimony to the fidelity of those with whom I have had the honor to act in the management of the affairs of the Academy. They have given, by their devotion to its interests, hitherto, an earnest that nothing will be wanting on their part to render the institution what, in fact, it has always been, an efficient aid in carrying forward the great cause of

education in Massachusetts, and a blessing to the community who share its privileges.

With this explanation, and with sentiments of high respect, I offer for your acceptance this report of what I have done in behalf of the committee, in obedience to your vote, towards collecting and preserving the history of Leicester Academy.

EMORY WASHBURN.

WORCESTER, May, 1855.

History of Leicester Academy.

CHAPTER I.

THE ORIGIN AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ACADEMY.

THIS institution had its origin in that dark period of the history of the Commonwealth which immediately succeeded the war of the Revolution.

Her resources had been exhausted in that struggle, and, amidst its absorbing interests, the education of the young had been neglected. In some towns, the schools had been suspended, and in few of them had the system of popular education maintained any thing more than a feeble existence.

Instances were, by no means, rare where youth of both sexes passed through that interval from 1776 to 1783, without enjoying the advantages of schools, except, perhaps, for a few days in the year, even in the more populous and wealthy neighborhoods.

Education was consequently at a low ebb; nor was the apprehension entirely without foundation, that there would not be sufficient general intelligence among the people to sustain the free power of government, for the establishment of which there had been so much blood and treasure expended.

The college at Cambridge had long been cherished by the people of Massachusetts as an institution which had done

much to educate a learned ministry, and sustain the character of the other professions.

Two academies for the education of young men preparatory to college, or a life of active business, had been chartered and endowed. And these constituted the only seminaries of learning beyond the district school, or, perhaps, a few private establishments in which the youth of the county might hope to be taught.

As these academies were situate in the eastern part of the State, a general want was felt for an institution in a central position, to which the sons and daughters of the people of that portion of the Commonwealth could resort for the purposes of education.

It was in this state of the public feeling, and while the exigency of the times demanded that something should be done for the improvement and education of the rising generation, that two individuals came forward, and, by their public spirit and wise liberality, laid the foundation of an institution which has now, for more than seventy years, been entirely devoted to this great and holy work.

Leicester Academy owes its origin to the efforts and generosity of Ebenezer Craft, of Sturbridge, and Jacob Davis, of Charlton, and their names deserve to be associated with the Dummer and Phillipses of an earlier day, the monuments of whose munificence in the institutions they founded, are among the most honorable of which our Commonwealth can boast.

Dummer Academy at Byfield was founded in 1756, though not incorporated till after the revolution in 1782. And Phillips Academy at Andover was commenced in 1777, and incorporated in 1780. So that, in the order of incorporation, the academy at Andover takes precedence, when, in fact, that at Byfield was much earlier founded.

In tracing the history of Leicester Academy, every one must be struck with the entire absence of self-interest on the part of its founders in the inception and prosecution of the

enterprise. Neither of them had local pride to gratify, or property to enhance in value by selecting Leicester as the seat of such an institution.

The object they had at heart was to found an academy. Its locality became rather a matter of favorable accident than any original design on their part.

The conception of such a work, as well as the first steps towards accomplishing it, belonged to Colonel Crafts. He was, as I shall have occasion to remark hereafter, a gentleman of liberal education, and broad and generous views, and one who felt the importance and necessity of some measure to provide a better system of instruction for the young than they then enjoyed within the county.

Various plans for effecting this purpose suggested themselves to his mind. At one time, he thought seriously of attempting to establish an academy in Sturbridge, where he resided. But the need of suitable buildings, and the original expense of erecting such, seemed to offer an impediment to the enterprise too serious for him to surmount.

While his mind was thus exercised how to accomplish the plan he had conceived, the death of Aaron Lopez, and the removal of the families of Jews from Leicester, to which place they had resorted from Newport to escape the hostilities which the English waged upon that town, opened to Colonel Crafts the means of carrying forward his favorite scheme.

Mr. Lopez was one of the merchant princes of his day. He was, at one time, extensively engaged in commerce, and possessed of great wealth. He was distinguished for hospitality and benevolence, and his fine gentlemanly manners, united with a character of irreproachable integrity, secured him the respect and esteem of all who knew him.*

His place of business before the Revolution had been Newport, then the commercial emporium of New England. In

* The inventory of his estate shows a property of nearly \$100,000, including a stock in trade of more than \$12,000, and indicating, by the character of the furniture, and family stores on hand, a style of living not common, at that day, in the country.

the summer of 1777, I believe, he, together with several other families of Jews, removed to Leicester, where they purchased and occupied estates, and Mr. Lopez resumed, to a limited extent, his mercantile pursuits.

To accommodate these, and to provide for his family a suitable residence, he erected what was then regarded as a spacious and commodious dwelling-house, containing a large centre room for the purposes of a store. I shall have occasion to speak more particularly of this estate in another connection.

On the 20th day of May, 1782, Mr. Lopez started, with his family, to visit Providence, they in a carriage, and himself in a gig drawn by one horse. In passing Scott's pond, in Smithfield, on his way, he drove his horse into the water, as was supposed, to drink, when, by some means, he got beyond his depth, upset the gig, and Mr. Lopez was drowned in the very presence of his family, who could render him no assistance.

This circumstance, together with the return of peace, induced these families to return to Newport, leaving, however, among the inhabitants of Leicester, a grateful remembrance of their residence here, which was cordially reciprocated.

This train of events rendered it necessary to sell the estate of Mr. Lopez, and the same was offered at auction. Colonel Crafts regarded it as a favorable opportunity to obtain a suitable building for an academy upon reasonable terms, and proposed to Colonel Davis to join with him in the purchase.

There had not, however, been any previous concert between them, nor had the idea of purchasing the estate occurred to either, till they came together on the day of the sale, with great numbers of people from the neighboring towns, which the occasion attracted.

Colonel Davis, at once, came into the views of Colonel Crafts, and the estate was bid off to Colonel Crafts, Colonel Davis, and Asa Sprague, for the sum of five hundred and fifteen pounds.

What the design of Mr. Sprague was, in joining in the

purchase, does not appear. If he had any intention to aid in founding an institution, he seems soon to have abandoned it ; for, in September following the purchase, he conveyed his interest in the estate to Colonel Crafts.

The original deed of the estate bears date May 7th, 1783, and, on the fourth of July following, Colonel Crafts, with his accustomed energy and promptness, commenced proceedings which resulted in the accomplishment of his original design.

He addressed a petition to the legislature, of which the following is a copy :

“To the Honorable, etc. : The Petition of Ebenezer Crafts, of Sturbridge, in the county of Worcester, humbly sheweth, that he, the said Ebenezer, together with Jacob Davis, of Charlton, Esquire, and Asa Sprague, of Spencer, Gentleman, both in said county, some time in the month of April last past, purchased a large and commodious building, with about one acre of land, late the property of Aaron Lopez, deceased, lying and being in the town of Leicester, in the county, etc., with intent and design to promote the public benefit in the education of youth, as the said buildings are exceedingly well calculated for an academy. And, having every reason to believe your honors will encourage such laudable motives, do, with the greater freedom, request your honors to incorporate and establish the afore-cited premises, under the following trustees, viz., Ebenezer Crafts, Esq., Rev. Joshua Paine, Timothy Newhall, Esq., of Sturbridge, Jacob Davis, Esq., Mr. Caleb Amidown, of Charlton, the Rev. Benjamin Conklin, and Seth Washburn, Esq., of Leicester, William Stearns, and Samuel Curtis, of Worcester, Esquires, the Rev. Joseph Pope, Mr. Asa Sprague, of Spencer, Dwight Foster, of Brookfield, all in the county of Worcester ; the Rev. Nehemiah Williams, and the Hon. Timothy Danielson, Esq., both of Brimfield, in the county of Hampshire.

We, therefore, pray your honors to incorporate the aforementioned trustees into a body politic, for the purpose above mentioned, with such privileges and advantages as are granted to the academy at Andover, whereby the same may be made respectable, whereby the advantage of the education of youth may be promoted ; whereby advantages may arise not only to individuals, but to the public in general, and prove a blessing to our land of liberty.

EBENEZER CRAFTS.”

July 4th, 1783.

The enterprise which had thus been conceived found general favor in the county, and enlisted the zealous and active sympathy of many of its prominent citizens. Among these was the late Isaiah Thomas, Esq., then the publisher and proprietor of the Massachusetts Spy, who rendered efficient aid to the work by the influence of that paper.

In the Spy of the 6th November, 1783, it was announced that "there would soon be opened at Leicester an academy for the purpose of promoting the sciences, etc.;" and an appeal was, at the same time, made to "the people of this large county" "to exert themselves to second the endeavors of those gentlemen who have laid this generous and laudable plan of another channel to public education."

It was further stated, that "This academy will be opened in that large and elegant house lately occupied by Mr. Aaron Lopez, a situation peculiarly advantageous for this purpose."

In a subsequent number of that paper, an appeal was again made to the public "to set on foot a subscription through the county, at least, in favor of our infant academy."

It does not appear how generally this appeal was responded to, but it is pleasant to record the ready compliance of the Rev. Mr. Buckminster, of Rutland, with the suggestion, who, at the close of his sermon on Thanksgiving day of that year, addressed his congregation in strong terms, upon the importance of lending their aid to the proposed institution. These remarks were afterwards published by Mr. Thomas, in his paper.

A brief notice is due to the memory of this early friend of Leicester Academy.

REV. JOSEPH BUCKMINSTER was a native of Framingham, and was graduated at Cambridge, in 1739. He was ordained over the church and society in Rutland, in 1742, and remained the pastor of that church till his death, November, 1772, at the age of 72.

He was greatly respected as a man, and somewhat distinguished as a divine.

Several of his sermons were published.

He was an active and efficient promoter of the cause of learning, and a friend of literary institutions ; and his efforts in favor of this academy in its infancy, were too sincere and disinterested to be overlooked when chronicling the names of those who fostered its early growth, and sustained it in the days of its adversity and weakness.

The amount contributed by Colonels Crafts and Davis may seem, at first sight, to have been too inconsiderable to justify the commendations paid to their munificence. But the time and circumstances under which this was done should be taken into consideration in judging of the act.

Whatever they did was a spontaneous act, prompted only by a desire to have a seminary of learning established in the county. And the difficulty which was encountered in obtaining sufficient additional funds to render it expedient, in the minds of the legislature, to incorporate the institution shows that the pecuniary condition of the people rendered the payment of even a much smaller sum an act of acknowledged generosity. Indeed, the difficulty in obtaining subscriptions of sufficient funds at one time threatened to defeat the act of incorporation altogether.

The petition above recited was presented to the Senate, by Hon. Seth Washburn, then a member of that body, February 2d, 1784, and was referred to a committee, consisting of the Hon. Mr. Baker, afterwards one of the trustees on the part of the Senate, and Mr. Phillips and Mr. Bartlett, on the part of the House.

Athough these gentlemen were friends of the measure, and readily reported in favor of bringing in a bill for the incorporation of the academy, they wisely appended a condition to their report that, before the bringing in of such a bill, the petitioners should make it appear to the General Court, that a sum of one thousand pounds, exclusive of the real estate, had been raised for the purposes of the academy, before it should become a law.*

* Samuel Adams was the President of the Senate, and Tristram Dalton, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Further proceedings were accordingly suspended in the Legislature, and an effort to raise the requisite sum was successfully made. So that, on the 23d March, 1784, a bill for incorporating the academy was passed.

The preamble to the act recites the views of the legislature, and the circumstances under which the act was passed.

Whereas the encouragement of literature in the rising generation has ever been considered, by the wise and good, as an object worthy of the most serious attention, as the safety and happiness of a free people ultimately depend upon the advantages arising from a pious, virtuous and liberal education: Whereas it appears that Ebenezer Crafts, of Sturbridge, in the county of Worcester, and Jacob Davis, of Charlton, in said county, Esquires, for the purpose of promoting piety and learning, have generously given the large and commodious house, lands and appurtenances, in Leicester, lately occupied by Aaron Lopez, deceased, for the use of an academy, and it further appears, that the sum of one thousand pounds is generously subscribed for the support of said academy, the interest thereof, together with what may hereafter be raised by donations, with the income or rent of all real estate to be appropriated for the use and benefit of the said academy, as trustees to be appointed, shall think most expedient, etc.

The act names fifteen trustees, most of whom had been mentioned in the original petition of Colonel Crafts, of whom six were clergymen and nine laymen. It declares the incorporation to be "for the purposes of promoting true piety and virtue, and for the education of youth in the English, Latin, Greek and French languages, together with writing, arithmetic and the art of speaking, also practical geometry, logic, philosophy and geography, and such other liberal arts and sciences as opportunity may hereafter permit, and the trustees hereinafter provided shall direct."

The deed from Colonels Crafts and Davis to the trustees of Leicester Academy bears date May, 1784, and is stated therein to have been made in consideration, besides a nominal pecuniary sum, of "the regard the grantors bear to virtue and learning, which they consider greatly conducive to the welfare of the community."

In order to compare with the standard of our own day, what

was so often spoken of as the "large and elegant structure,"—"the large and commodious mansion house," which was thus dedicated to the purposes of an academy, I shall endeavor to describe, partly from recollection and partly from the information of others, its dimensions and position.

The house was two stories high, having six rooms upon the lower story, three in front, and three in rear. The middle room in front had been used by Mr. Lopez, for a store room, and occupied more space in length, than the other two rooms in the south-east and south-west corners of the house. It stood near the road fronting toward the south, and was surmounted by a kind of cupola, in which hung a bell, the gift, I believe, of Mr. Stickney of Leicester.

Upon the front of the building, were two outer doors, over which were porches, supported by two pillars with corresponding pilasters, to which it had been attempted to give something like architectural proportions though without much success. This was the only attempt at architectural ornament upon the exterior of the building, whose front might have been perhaps seventy-five feet in length. The stories were not probably more than from seven to seven and one-half feet in height. Its windows were made of panes of glass, six by eight inches in size—and its general appearance and effect corresponded with what might be expected in a building of such proportions, devoid of ornament, and thus lighted.

Dr. Pierce, in his address before the academy in 1847, speaks of the appearance of the building in 1793 as follows. "It was an oblong, barrack-looking building, erected by Jews who had migrated from Newport, Rhode Island, and raised this rough looking structure for mercantile uses."

And yet, according to the standard of architectural taste of the day, it was an imposing structure. Mr. Lopez was a man of refined taste, ample fortune and liberal habits; and can hardly be supposed to have intentionally spared any reasonable expense, in constructing a mansion house for himself.

The east and west wings or end of this building remain, hav-

ing been removed and fitted up as dwelling-houses upon the road leading to Charlton, within the present village of Leicester, and it is only necessary to compare these with the proportions and style of exterior finish of the better class of dwelling-houses of our own day, to judge something of the progress that has been made in the arts, both in respect to convenience and luxury, during the last seventy-five years, in our country.

The building stood in front of the present academy, but more westerly, and close by the road, and, at the time of which I am speaking, there was, I believe, no dwelling-house upon either side of the street east of it, except one occupied by the Rev. Mr. Conklin, which stood upon the site of the house now of the Rev. Mr. May. While towards the west, at the distance of about a dozen rods, stood an old, dilapidated, ill-proportioned meeting-house, with diamond shaped windows, but without either porch or belfry.

Between these was the "training field," extending back some eight or ten rods, from the north-east corner of which a "lane" led to the remains of an old house, some twenty rods distant, in which Mr. Parsons, the first minister, had lived; while in rear of the meeting-house was the original burying-ground of the town, surrounded by a "brush" fence, extending around to the north-west corner of the meeting-house.

These constituted the entire part of the village of Leicester lying east of the road leading to Paxton, if we except a building standing opposite the meeting-house, upon the south side of the road, where had been once a small shoe-maker's shop, which had, a few years before that time, given place to a building of more imposing proportions, erected by Mr. Waite for a tavern.

The first meeting of the trustees for the purposes of organizing the corporation was notified on the 1st of April 1784, and held on the 7th of that month.

The exercises and proceedings on that occasion were interesting and impressive.

The trustees repaired in a body to the church where public

exercises were had, consisting of a solemn prayer by the Rev. Mr. Maccarty, and a discourse by the Rev. Mr. Conklin, from Proverbs xi. 25, followed by prayer, singing, etc. After this, the trustees, with a number of distinguished invited guests, partook of an "elegant repast," which had been provided in the academy.

They then proceeded to elect the corporate officers, and chose the Hon. Moses Gill, President, Rev. Benjamin Conklin, Vice President, Rev. Joseph Pope, Secretary, Joseph Allen Esq., Treasurer, and Colonel Crafts, "Steward and Butler."

The precise nature of the duties of this latter officer were not defined, but, as he never resided at Leicester, it is presumed they consisted chiefly in procuring a suitable person to take charge of the academy buildings, and provide "commons" for the students.

Two committees were at the same time appointed, one to procure a teacher who should instruct in the "Latin and Greek languages, geography, logic, etc." and the other to procure a teacher of "the English language, writing, arithmetic, surveying, etc." And if said instructors could be obtained by the next meeting of the trustees, the school was to be opened "with all convenient speed," "provided such a number be offered to receive instruction as should be thought, by the trustees, a sufficient encouragement to enter upon the work."

The south-west "parlor," in the academy building, was appropriated to the Latin department of the school; and the south-east parlor, for the English department; while the intermediate room, upon the front of the building, was reserved as common for both schools for declamations, and occasions when the pupils of both schools were to assemble, and it served, at the same time, the purposes of a "Commons Hall."*

The south-west chamber was appropriated to the use of the preceptors, while the other parts of the building were set apart for the use of the steward of the academy, and as lodg-

* Among the favors I have to acknowledge, is a letter now before me, from an early preceptor of the English department, who thus describes his school-room.

"I boarded in commons, assisted in carving and distribution, and never eat a meal of vic-

ing rooms for such students as should take their board in "commons."

Benjamin Stone was employed, under this arrangement, as principal preceptor; and the school was opened, under his charge and tuition, on Monday, the 7th of June, 1784.

No preceptor of the English department was employed until the succeeding autumn, when Thomas Payson was appointed to the place, and entered upon its duties.

The school commenced with three pupils, two from Sturbridge, and one from Leicester. Soon after, Eli Whitney, of Westboro', whose name has been so widely known, joined the school, and the number of students, during the summer after the academy was opened, increased to about twenty. Upon the opening of the autumn term, with two preceptors, the number rose to between seventy and eighty.

The names of the three who constituted the entire school at its opening, were Samuel C. Crafts, Ephraim Allen, and Samuel Swan.

Hon. Samuel C. Crafts was the son of Colonel Crafts, and was born in Woodstock, Conn., in 1768, and, at an early age, removed with his father to Sturbridge.

He fitted for college at the academy, and was graduated at Cambridge, in 1790. After leaving college, he commenced the study of the law, but abandoned it upon his removal with his father to Vermont in the winter of 1790-1. From that time, Craftsbury was his residence during the remainder of his life.

There were few public offices, either in town, county, or state, that he was not, at some time, called to fill, and in all acquitted himself with honor and entire acceptance. As few men ever shared more fully in public honors, no man ever commanded, more completely and justly, the public confidence.

He was the first town clerk of the town of Craftsbury, and,

tuals in a calm, leisurely and undisturbed manner. I taught and lived in the old, rickety, inconvenient, Jewish house. We had an old-fashioned box stove, no dry wood, all green and wet; teachers and students were infested and inflated all day with steam and smoke,—old crowded seats—what would young persons now think, were they thus used?"

for thirty-seven years, was re-elected annually to that office. In 1793, he was a member of the convention that formed the Constitution of Vermont. In 1796, he was a member of the legislature, and, the two following years, clerk of that body, and was frequently, after, elected a member. From 1800 to 1810, he was first assistant Judge of the County Court ; and, from that time till 1816, Chief Justice of that Court.

In 1816, he was elected to Congress, and held a seat in that body for eight years. From 1828 to 1830, he was Governor of the State. In 1842, he was appointed a Senator in Congress, and, upon the resignation of Judge Prentiss, was elected to serve out the balance of his term in the Senate. He died, at the ripe age of eighty-five, November 19th, 1853.

It is no part of the purpose of this work to write eulogies upon those of whom it becomes necessary to speak. And yet a notice of Gov. Crafts cannot be otherwise than a eulogy if it does any thing like justice to his character. He was a man of a rare combination of good sense, sound learning, great moral worth, and unpretending simplicity of manners. Public honors and popular favor never disturbed the quiet current of a blameless life. And he stood to those around him in the relation of a sage counsellor and faithful friend, commanding the respect and esteem of all. It is pleasant to trace, through a long life, the history of one who was, literally, of this academy at its beginning, and, in every position, did credit to his early training. He had watched its progress for fifty-seven years, and always felt an interest in its success, and, in writing its history, his name could not have been properly omitted.

Ephraim Allen was born in Sturbridge, and was graduated at Cambridge, in 1789. He became a physician, and married a daughter of General Newhall, one of the trustees of the academy, and settled in Salem, N. Y., where he resided till his death, in 1816. He sustained a high reputation in his profession, and was much respected.

Samuel Swan, the survivor of the three, was born in Leices-

ter, in 1778, and the son of Reuben Swan, who, it will appear hereafter, was one of the contributors to the original fund of the academy. He was consequently very young when he entered the academy. He remained, however, in the school till fitted for college, and was graduated at Cambridge, in 1799.

He studied law with Hon. N. P. Denny, Esq., in Leicester, and settled in his profession in Hubbardston, where he still resides, having, for some years, withdrawn from the practice of his profession.

The salary of the principal preceptor was at first fixed at £50, "he being at the expense of his own support."

Though there were periods, soon after the opening of the academy, when its struggle for existence was of doubtful issue, after surmounting its early embarrassments, it has never failed hitherto to supply, to those who have resorted to it for an education, the aid of a well-regulated and well-disciplined school, under teachers of competent and often eminent qualifications.

If, from the gratifying progress and improvement in our system of common schools, there is less occasion for institutions like this academy than there once was, and if, in consequence of this, the number of its pupils may, at any time, have seemed disproportioned to the encouragements it holds out to those seeking an education, its friends claim for it that it has generally kept pace with the growing wants of the age, and met every reasonable requisition that has been made upon it. How far it may be hoped that this will continue to be true may, perhaps, be better inferred from an examination of the system of discipline and instruction in use there, the condition of its funds, and the character of its trustees and teachers hitherto, which will form the subject of the future chapters of this work.

CHAPTER II.

THE SYSTEM OF DISCIPLINE AND INSTRUCTION ADOPTED FROM
TIME TO TIME, INCLUDING TEXT BOOKS, EXAMINATIONS,
EXHIBITIONS, ETC.

IN regard to the system of instruction adopted and pursued at this academy, it may be generally remarked that the policy, on the part of trustees and instructors, has been to give it a sound, practical character, rather than to adopt those measures in which utility is too often sacrificed to popular eclat.*

The consequence has been, that it has kept on the even tenor of its way, without attempting to attract by new experiments or ingenious speculations.

It lays no claim to having been, to any considerable degree, in advance of other similar institutions in its standard of education.

While, for instance, Harvard College did not require, (as we are assured, by the venerable Dr. Pierce, in his address before the academy, was the case in 1789,) that a student, in order to obtain an admission into College, should know anything of arithmetic or geography, it would hardly be expected that the standard of education in the academy in 1784 should be very elevated.

Utility, therefore, rather than show, has been the leading policy of the academy in its course of instruction.

Provision was at first made for procuring a "Preceptor in the Greek and Latin Languages," and also a "Teacher of English, Writing, Arithmetic, etc.," and that "the youth to be put under the care of such instructor should be personally

* The branches taught at first in the English department, were Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English Grammar, and Public Speaking. Geography was not taught at all.

examined by him, the Vice President, and the Latin and Greek Preceptor, as to their acquaintance with the first rudiments of learning, and whether they were qualified for admission.

There is reason, however, to believe that this preliminary examination, if ever employed, was based upon such extremely "first rudiments" as to amount to no check to the admission of students, for Mr. Swan could have been but a little more than six years old when admitted. And in a pleasant note, in answer to an inquiry upon the subject, the venerable and excellent Dr. Jackson, who was English Preceptor in 1796, says, "the studies were not of the most elevated character. I believe that all my pupils had learned the English alphabet before I saw them. I taught spelling, reading, writing, English grammar, and arithmetic, and perhaps, to a few of the pupils, some of the higher branches."

Public examinations, as well as public exhibitions of the students, were early adopted.

In a public notice of the Academy, June 25th, 1785, it is stated that "the Annual Meeting of the Corporation of Leicester Academy is to be held on the first Monday of July, when there will be a public Exhibition of the performances of some of the students."

Accordingly, on Monday, the 4th, "it being the day of the annual meeting of the Trustees of the Academy in Leicester, the youth of that seminary entertained a large and respectable audience with specimens of their literary improvements."

The plan of these does not seem to have been uniform or established by the Trustees until several years after this period.

The next notice that I have discovered of a public examination, was in October, 1785, when, as is stated, "on Tuesday last was the meeting of the Trustees and Overseers of Leicester Academy, at which time the youth of that seminary were examined as to their progress in classical knowledge, and gave great satisfaction to a number of respectable gentlemen who were present."

The taste, so generally prevalent in every community for dramatic representations, early developed itself in the public exhibitions of this academy.

A venerable gentleman,* recently one of the trustees, has told me that, while a member of the academy, which must have been about 1790, he took part in the dramatic performances on occasion of one of these exhibitions, which occupied the entire day and evening, and in which pupils of both sexes took parts. And among the dramas acted on the occasion, was Addison's *Cato*, entire.

Dr. Pierce, who came there in 1793, describes one of these exhibitions. "Plays were acted in the meeting-house, which was crowded to its full capacity. Scenery was constructed. On one of these days, I distinctly recollect a play excited great attention, entitled the '*Scolding Wife*,' all parts of which were well sustained, but the heroine of which acted her part to universal admiration. At that time, a Congregational minister in this county played behind the scenes, on a viol, the bass of a song in the '*Scolding Wife*,' which was a component part of the play."

The account which I find given in the papers of the day, of the exhibition in 1793, is as follows: "May 31st, on Wednesday last week, the Trustees of Leicester Academy paid their annual visit to that institution. The students of both sexes exhibited, on that occasion, a variety of theatrical representations, interspersed with original composition, and vocal and instrumental music. The performances in general were highly entertaining, and must have impressed the minds of the audience with sentiments peculiarly favorable both to the performers and their instructors."

These occasions were made agreeable holidays for people of this and the neighboring towns, and, to a considerable extent, have continued such up to the present time.

A public taste which would demand, or even be gratified, by such performances on the part of pupils of a literary semi-

* Hon. A. Bigelow.

nary, does not indicate that a very true estimate was entertained of the purposes which such an institution should aim to accomplish in the system of instruction it should adopt.

At length, the subject became of sufficient importance, in the minds of the trustees, to require their special and deliberate consideration. Messrs. Lincoln, Allen, and Sumner, were appointed a committee "to designate in general the subject matter, and the manner of performing the public academic exhibitions, as also the general expenses of the public entertainments on these occasions."

They made a report, which was accepted, in October, 1795, "that the exhibitions aforesaid, in future, consist of Greek, Latin or English orations, forensic disputations, dialogues upon historical, scientific, sentimental, or moral subjects, and specimens of reading in the English language, or such of the above as may comport with the proficiency of the pupils in literature, and a reasonable length of time for the performances."

The next direct action of the trustees on the subject was in October, 1796, when they made provision for erecting a stage for the performers on occasion of public exhibitions.

The trustees, at the same time, made provision for two stated meetings of the body, one in July, and the other in October, "and, at the last aforesaid meetings, there shall be an examination of the pupils by the trustees."

This is the first action of the trustees that I find requiring a public examination of the students by the trustees, and this was limited to one in each year.

From that time examinations have been regularly had by the trustees or committee of that body, increasing in number from time to time, till they are now had at the close of each term of the school.

The school appears to have been destitute of anything in the way of "apparatus" till 1798, when measures were taken by the trustees to purchase a "set of globes," a "prospect glass," and a "microscope," and to ascertain the expense of a telescope.

Soon after, during the same year, a committee were authorized "to purchase an electrical machine, a thermometer, and a set of instruments for surveying land."

The globes and telescope have, I believe, come down to the present day,* while the other articles have long since become a matter of history, though the thermometer and instruments for surveying have been in use within the memory of some whose connexion with the school is somewhat modern.†

It is not easy to recall the text-books that have been used in the school, in anything like the order of their introduction. In 1796, Pike's Arithmetic was the standard in that department. At a subsequent period, Adams' Arithmetic was considerably used, and this was succeeded by Webber's, which was in use till 1815. Alexander's Grammar, I apprehend, was the text-book for some years, but was early superseded by Murray's, which was the only one upon that subject in use for many years.

How early Scott's Lessons for reading, parsing, etc., came into use, I am unable to state; but I presume, from the best information I can obtain, it was adopted early in the present century, and justly held its place in school for many years.

Some of the higher classes made use, at times, of some English classic, like Cowper's Task, for exercises in parsing, and as a reading book.

The academy, by the way, always held a respectable, and, at times, a high rank in the department of Grammar.

Blair's Rhetoric was early a text-book upon that subject.

The earliest geography of which I have any account, as used in school, was "Morse's," what was called "Abridgment;" and that was studied and recited *memoriter* without the aid of maps. This mode of teaching geography was in use as late as 1810 and '11, up to which time I have great

* The globes were in use in 1836, and it was then voted to repair them, or procure others.

† I shall have occasion to mention, in another connexion, the purchase of a philosophical apparatus, at the expense of \$500, in 1823.

In 1848, the trustees expended \$100 more for the same purpose.

doubt if an atlas, or collection of maps, had ever been seen in the academy.

About the year 1813, Chemistry began to be studied a little, and recitations were had from the "Conversations," the only text-book for schools then accessible. But no experiments or illustrations were had, except, perhaps, showing how the flame of a taper would be extinguished by burning it under a tumbler inverted over a cup of water.

In 1815, the subject of making this a regular study in the academy, was first considered by the trustees.

In what I have said of text-books, I have chiefly confined myself to the English department.* Of the Latin department, I shall have to speak in another connexion.

To recur to the public exhibitions, the time occupied in them was at length found necessary to be limited by the action of the trustees.

In 1801, they provided that the exercises, upon days of exhibition and examination, should commence at 10 o'clock A. M., and be confined to a single session.

In 1802, the day of the annual exhibition was fixed to be on Thursday preceding the last Wednesday in August, instead of varying, as it had done before, from May to one of the summer months.

How far these exhibitions, as a part of the academical exercises, were expedient, seems to have been a matter of grave doubt and discussion, from time to time, from the foundation of the academy to the present time.

In 1809, a committee which had been raised the year previous, upon the subject, proposed that the school should be examined at the end of the fall, winter and spring terms, by a committee of five from the trustees, and, for this purpose, they were divided into three standing committees. "In respect to public exhibitions, they have contemplated the

* Perry's Dictionary was in general use, until superseded by Walker, about 1808 or '10, though Johnson's was always regarded as the standard for spelling and definition till a much more recent period.

subject, and its influence on the immediate improvement of the students, and upon public opinion, and they are constrained to recommend the continuance of them."

Whenever the question has been raised, the pressure of the popular demand for something like a literary holiday in the academy has been acknowledged, even when the wisdom of continuing it as a school ceremony has been doubted.

It was again discussed in 1816, when the whole subject of "making further provision for the instruction of this academy" and "the expediency of dispensing with exhibitions" was brought before the board.

It was again voted to be inexpedient to dispense with the exhibitions, though it was recommended "to assign parts in these exercises to those scholars, who will be most benefited by public speaking, and while they (the government) have some regard to the entertainment of a mixed audience in the selection of pieces, the improvement of their pupils be a primary object."

In 1819, in order to carry out the views of the trustees, in the selection of the pieces to be spoken at the exhibition, a committee of that body was raised to assist the preceptors in making selections. History does not record the success of the experiment. But I do not find it repeated.

The expense of these exhibitions until 1821 had been sustained by the students.—Nor were they inconsiderable, since, among other contingent charges, it was always deemed essential to employ a band of music on the occasion.

In the latter year, the trustees assumed these expenses to a considerable extent.

In regard to the text-books and mode of instruction adopted in the Latin department of the academy, these were of course conformed to the requirements of the leading colleges in New England.*

*The text-books in use at the commencement of the academy were, Latin Grammar, Corde-rius, Erasmus, Eutropius, Cicero's Orations, Virgil, and a Treatise on "Making Latin," Greek Grammar, and Testament.

For some years, I am led to infer the pupils made free use of translations of the classic authors, but they had been generally disused before 1810. At any rate, the preceptors, after that period, discouraged the use of them. But no action was taken by the trustees upon the subject till 1815, when they formally disallowed them as being "unfriendly to a thorough and critical knowledge of the learned languages." The restriction, however, did not extend to Corderius, Erasmus, Eutropius, "or books of that description." In a report upon the subject, on the occasion last referred to, they expressly recognize the doctrine, that "the prosperity of the academy is in a great measure suspended upon its public reputation for correct and thorough classical instruction," and they urge upon the preceptor great caution in recommending pupils for admission into the colleges.

For several years previous to this time, the text-books in use in teaching Latin, were Adams' Grammar, Æsop's Fables, Eutropius, Virgil, and Cicero's Select Orations. In Greek, Gloucester Grammar, Græca Minora, Greek Testament, and portions of Græca Majora, Ainsworth's Latin Dictionary, and Schreveli's Greek Lexicon, with Latin definitions, were the dictionaries in use.

Up to 1817, the division of the academical year was into quarters, with vacations of a fortnight each. But, in the latter year, the plan was adopted of having but three terms. It did not, however, find general favor, and, after a year, the original arrangement was resumed.

The hours of study were, from time to time, regulated by rules adopted by the trustees. It was originally designed that the pupils should be constantly under the supervision of the teachers. But, from a variety of causes, the stringency of the rule was relaxed, till the custom of allowing the older and more advanced scholars to study in their own rooms became somewhat general, and the attention of the trustees was called to the subject.

After fully considering the matter, they came to the conclu-

sion that permission ought not to be granted to the scholars "to study in their private rooms, but in cases of necessity." And the propriety of the rule is too obvious to require illustration, except in cases of pupils of sufficiently matured judgment to appreciate properly the value and importance of time.

The number of hours during which the schools should be taught were fixed, in 1820, at eight, viz., from eight to twelve in the forenoon, and from two to six in the afternoon. In 1834, these were varied to from half past eight to twelve, and from half past one to half past four, except in summer, and then from two to five P. M., and the hours of study in the evening, from October to April, from seven to nine.

The system of public examinations, each term, by committees of the trustees was established in 1819, to take place at the close of the term, except that, in the summer, when it was to be had "three weeks preceding the annual exhibition, as that would tend to prevent an unreasonable devotion of time to the latter object, and secure more attention to study during the greater proportion of that quarter."

It has been, more than once, incidentally stated, that the pupils of the academy consisted of both sexes. This has been the case from the commencement of the school. The trustees and preceptors seem to have early understood,—what is now so well settled,—that, in educational training, the same intellectual processes were to be pursued with the one sex as with the other ; and therefore adopted the same system of text-books and instruction for each. And the success which always distinguished this system, so far as what has been called the "weaker sex" is concerned, fully justified the wisdom of the measure.

It might be invidious to select individual cases for illustration. But it may not be misplaced to make use of the testimony of the Rev. Dr. Pierce, in the address to which allusion has been made, upon this subject. Speaking of one of his female pupils, he uses the following language : "Though in my class, while I instructed at the university, were Dr. Chan-

ning, Judge Story, and other respectable scholars, yet I have been in the habit of remarking that never have I known one male or female of a more extraordinary mind than was evinced by this gifted young lady.”*

Though the female pupils pursued with quite equal success with the other sex the studies taught in the English department, it was not till a much more recent period that they engaged in the study of “the languages,” which has become so common, especially the Latin.

But whoever is able to recall the course of instruction in our public schools, and especially of female education in New England, for something more than a third of a century, will understand the struggle against which the trustees of the academy had to stand to render the system of instruction of females in the academy more “popular.” The prevailing sentiment in the public mind seemed to be in favor of schools where “accomplishments” and the “polite branches” should hold a more prominent place in female education.

Many were the boarding schools which flourished for a while, under the influence of this sentiment, and many were the “wrought samplers” and “painted mourning-pieces” which were hung up in the parlors of our good citizens, as a kind of certificate that their daughters had shared in the benefits of one of those schools that once obtained a hold upon the public mind, where the acquisition of the “solid” branches of learning was mingled with most of the “fine” and “polite arts,” and the whole accomplished in an incredibly short period.

From 1815 to 1819, the idea of introducing some change in the arrangement as to the female pupils of the school, seems to have been suggested from time to time, till, in the latter year, a committee of the trustees, having considered the whole subject, made a report, which put the question at rest.

It had been proposed to have a separate department of the academy as a district school for females, under the general superintendence of the trustees.

* Miss Southgate, (afterwards Mrs. Boyd,) of Scarboro', Me.

The committee discourage such a separation of the schools on account of the want of sufficient funds, but do not enter into the question of how far it is expedient to separate the sexes, in our academies and high schools, which has of late been somewhat discussed.

The custom of allowing the female pupils to take part in the exercise of declamation was discontinued within a few years after the establishment of the school.

In respect to the moral discipline of the academy, it has always been the aim of the trustees, to fix as high a standard as can reasonably be hoped to be sustained in its application. A code of rules and regulations for the government of the school, and the conduct of the pupils, was early adopted, which has been modified, from time to time, to conform to the condition and wants of the institution.

Without giving these in detail, it may be stated that an attendance of the pupils upon morning and evening devotions in the academy, and the public religious exercises upon the Sabbath, and days of public fast and thanksgiving, have been uniformly required.*

The penalties attached to a violation of the rules and regulations of the school have been fines, admonitions, suspensions and expulsions, though fines or expulsions have been of rare application in the discipline of the academy.

In 1834, there was a revision of these laws, in which the imposition of fines was abolished, and expulsion adopted by the preceptors, only in concurrence with a committee of the trustees.

By the original system of organizing the schools, the principal preceptor was understood to be charged with the general

* From the erection of the meeting-house till an organ was obtained, about 1826, the students occupied the seats in the gallery, from the center of the front around to the center of the west gallery. After that, they occupied the seats in the east gallery. In 1802, the trustees hired a seat, for the English preceptor, in a pew in the gallery belonging to N. Beers, overlooking the students. The meeting-house was without any stove, or means of warming it, and an extract from the same letter already quoted from, will give some idea of what "going to meeting" then was. "I shudder now, in June, with the cold, while thinking what I then suffered on the Sabbath, when I was posted as a sentinel, in the north-west corner pew in the church, to observe the students' conduct in the time of worship."

management and direction of the institution, although I can find few, if any, instances, where the Latin preceptor had occasion to interfere with the discipline of the English department. Dr. Jackson incidentally remarks that, while he was connected with the academy, "the schools were conducted quite independently of each other. I believe Mr. Adams never entered my room, and that I never entered his." "He gave me his advice very kindly, but I believe that he had no right to control me; certainly he never did."

In order, however, to remove all questions of conflict of jurisdiction, the subject was acted upon by the trustees in 1821, when it was expressly declared by them, that it was the duty of the principal preceptor to superintend the government of the English, as well as the Latin, school; to arrange, direct and regulate the studies of the English students; to acquaint himself with their proficiency, by occasional examinations; and, in common with the assistant, to watch over their moral and general deportment.

The assistant had authority, concurrent with the principal, to preserve order in the English school when under his immediate care, and to inflict such punishments, when necessary, as are consistent with the usages and laws of the academy.

Thus stood the respective powers and duties of the principal and assistant preceptors until 1824, when, in order to conform to the spirit of the provisions of the last will and testament of the late Mr. Waters, who had recently left a liberal donation to the academy, a new system, as to the division and management of the schools, was adopted by the trustees.

The institution was divided into an upper and lower school. The upper school was to be under the instruction of the principal of the academy. The other was to be under that of the preceptor of the lower school, and "to retain the same powers and to hold the same relations to each other, that the principal and his assistant do at present."

The upper school was to embrace all classic studies preparatory to admission into colleges, provided the student was, in

the judgment of the two preceptors, prepared to begin Virgil, Cicero's Orations, and the Greek Testament.

Pupils in the English studies might be admitted into the upper school if found, upon examination of the two preceptors, well acquainted with geography, English grammar, and common arithmetic.

Reading and spelling were strongly recommended as a daily exercise in the lower school, and as, at least, a weekly one in the upper school.

It was under this arrangement that Mr. Richardson, the Latin preceptor, was declared to be the principal of the academy.

A list of text-books was adopted, at the same time, for the several schools, which, though rather formidable in numbers, I copy here, as showing the books then in use in our better classes of schools :

First Class Book, Worcester's Ancient and Modern Geography, Murray's Grammar, Walker's Dictionary, Colburn's and Adams' Arithmetic, Adams' Latin Grammar, Liber Primus, Viri Romæ, Cæsar's Commentaries, Valpy's Greek Grammar.

In the upper school, Cicero's Select Orations, Clark's Introduction, Ovid's Metamorphoses, Sallust, Græca Minora, Worcester's Geography, Virgil, Greek Testament, Neilson's Greek Exercises, Butman's Greek Grammar, Lacroix's Arithmetic, Euler's Algebra, Blair's Rhetoric, Whelply's Compend of History, Hedge's Logic, Legendre's Geometry, Flint's Surveying, Conversations on Intellectual Philosophy, Wilkins' Astronomy, Conversations on Chemistry, Watts on the Mind.

These evidently do not constitute a regular or required course of study, but are designed as elementary books for the various pupils who might resort to the academy for longer or shorter periods, and in view of a more or less systematic course of instruction, according to their respective opportunities or purposes for an education.

In one respect, the trustees have ever shown themselves liberal in their policy in regard to the school. They have always supplied an adequate number of teachers to meet the occasions of the pupils. And it is believed that, in no similar institution, has there been a larger, and, as a general thing, more competent corps of instructors in proportion to the number of its pupils than that which this academy has supplied.

A brief sketch of many of those who have filled the place of teachers in the academy will be found in another chapter of this report.

Some practical difficulties having arisen in carrying out the arrangements as to an "upper" and "lower" school, and thereby conforming to the clause in the will of Capt. Waters, which appropriated the fund thereby created "for the purpose of supporting an instructor or instructors of the Congregational Calvinistic order, in the higher branches of literature," in November, 1825, the trustees made a new arrangement in the schools, whereby that distinction was abolished.

Instead of that, there were to be two instructors stately employed, the first to be denominated the principal preceptor, and the second the assistant preceptor.

The business of the instruction of the school was delegated to these, with the understanding that the principal should have the general superintendence of the school in respect to government, and the division of the respective duties of the two instructors, subject always to the direction of the trustees.

From that time, the assistant preceptor has been considered as appointed upon the "Waters foundation."

Increase S. Smith was the first preceptor who received this appointment, the trustees having voted that he was "of the Congregational Calvinistic order."

The vexed question of the annual exhibition again came up before the trustees in May of this year, and it was voted to dispense with it, and a public examination substituted.

In May, 1827, it was voted that, in addition to the public examination, there should be such declamations by the stu-

dents as the preceptors should judge proper. And the same course was pursued the next year.

But so strong was the public impression in favor of something like the former exercises, upon the day of the annual exhibition, that they were at last restored, except that the proportion of original declamations was much increased.

A very appropriate and pleasant addition to the public exercises on these occasions was made in 1840, when it was voted by the trustees that some former member of the academy should be annually chosen by the trustees to make an address at the annual exhibition.

This custom has been continued, and has added much to the interest of the occasion, as the names of those who have made addresses would lead one to suppose.

The first of these was Hon. Charles Allen. In 1841, Emory Washburn. In 1842, the address was by the president. In 1844, Hon. Benjamin F. Thomas. In 1845, Hon. Thomas Kinnicutt. In 1847, Rev. Dr. Pierce, of Brookline, whose interesting address on that occasion has been more than once alluded to, and a copy whereof is preserved in the archives of the academy. In 1848, the address was by Hon. Ira M. Barton, of Worcester. In 1849, by Hon. Pliny Merrick, of Worcester. In 1850, by William Brigham, Esq., of Boston. In 1851, by Rev. James W. Thompson, D. D., of Salem. In 1852, Dwight Foster, Esq., of Worcester, was prevented, by unavoidable reasons, from making the address, and, in 1853, Hon. Charles Thurber delivered a poem at the public exhibition. In 1854, Dwight Foster, Esq. made the annual address.

Instruction in French had been introduced into the academy before 1828, and a regular tuition was then established for it. In May, 1835, the trustees voted to employ a female teacher, in addition to an assistant English preceptor, making four teachers, besides occasional teachers in particular branches. And this has been continued to the present time.

To secure a respectable standing for scholarship in the Eng-

lish department, the trustees, in 1834, adopted, as a regulation, that no one should be received who could not read the English language fluently, write a legible hand, parse simple sentences in English grammar, and was not versed in the fundamental rules of arithmetic, and the elements of geography.

Occasional changes were made in the text-books used in the schools, some of which are mentioned in the records. Thus, in 1836, Andrews and Stoddard's Latin Grammar, in connexion with Gould's, was introduced, and Burritt's Geography of the Heavens.

In 1839, Newman's Rhetoric, Sophocles' Greek Grammar, and Felton's Greek Reader.

In 1842, Davis' Surveying instead of Flint's.

In 1843, Colton's Greek Reader was substituted for Felton's, and other changes may have been adopted.

CHAPTER III.

THE FUNDS AND REAL ESTATE OF THE CORPORATION, WITH
NOTICES OF SOME OF THE BENEFACTORS OF THE ACADEMY.

As the first donation to the academy consisted of real estate, it is proper to speak of that prominently, in giving an account of the funds and resources of the academy, although the subject has been briefly mentioned already, in a former chapter.

The estate given by Colonel Crafts and Colonel Davis, as already mentioned, contained one acre of land, which, prior to 1765, had belonged to the Rev. Joseph Roberts, for several years the settled minister of Leicester.

He conveyed it, that year, to his successor, the Rev. Mr. Conklin. In 1770, he conveyed one-half of it to Ezekiel Fosgate, who erected a small building upon it for the purposes of a store. This was the first store ever opened in the town.

The next year, Fosgate conveyed his estate to Elijah Harrington, of Worcester, and, the year following, he sold the same to Joseph Allen, Esq., who had removed from Boston to Leicester, and engaged in mercantile business in that town.

The next year, 1774, Mr. Allen conveyed one-half the estate to his partner, Henry Bass, of Boston, having erected a dwelling-house upon a part of the land.

In 1777, they conveyed the estate to Aaron Lopez who purchased the other half acre of Mr. Conklin, and erected, partly upon both parcels, what was so generally regarded, as has been said, "the splendid mansion," afterwards used for the academy.

The conveyance, by the administrator of Mr. Lopez, to Messrs. Crafts, Davis & Sprague, has already been mentioned, as well as the conveyance of Mr. Sprague to Colonel Crafts,

and the subsequent deed of the same from Messrs. Crafts & Davis to the trustees of the academy, on the 18th May, 1784.

In November, 1804, Dr. Austin Flint gave the academy a small parcel of land adjoining their other estate, of the value of one hundred and sixty dollars, containing one hundred and twenty-four rods; and, in the same month, sold and conveyed to the trustees, for the sum of \$150, another parcel adjoining the first, containing one hundred and seventy-two square rods of land.

A plan of the land, as surveyed by John Southgate, Esq., accompanies the deed from the estate of Mr. Lopez to Colonel Crafts, etc., and is found upon the records in the Registry of Deeds.

I transcribe the description of the half acre once owned by Messrs. Allen & Bass, as contained in their deed to Mr. Lopez, partly to make this report the more complete, and partly that those, familiar with the present situation of the grounds in front of the public buildings in Leicester, may judge somewhat of their condition in 1777. "A certain parcel of land in Leicester, etc., on the north side of the county road, eastward of, and near to, the meeting-house, bounded southerly, by the county road, six rods eastwardly to a heap of stones; from thence by land of the Rev. Benjamin Conklin, by a line running N. 1° E. 11 3-4 rods, to a heap of stones on a rock; thence, turning W. 1° N. 5 1-4 rods to a stake and heap of stones, by the lane leading from the meeting-house, to the remains of a house formerly possessed by Israel Parsons, deceased; from thence, bounded westerly by said land in part, and partly by the "training field," to the S. E. corner of the place whereon the old school-house stood, and containing half an acre by measure, together with a dwelling-house and shop situate thereon.

The consideration mentioned in this deed, embracing land, house, and shop, was £200, or six hundred and sixty-six dollars. Probably this house, erected by Mr. Allen, formed a part of the larger structure, erected by Mr. Lopez, in 1778.

These, with a parcel of land purchased by the trustees in 1804, for the purposes of the academy, constitute the lands belonging to the corporation. But the changes that have been made in the buildings belonging to the institution will form a part of the history of its funds.

In respect to the funds of the academy, like too many of the public institutions of our country, they have rarely been adequate to meet the demands which the public have made upon those who have charge of its interests. Indeed, the history of the institution is a history of struggles which its trustees have carried on, often under great discouragements, to sustain the usefulness and reputation of the academy.

I have already had occasion to state the reluctance of the legislature to grant an act of incorporation upon the petition of Colonel Crafts, until something like an adequate fund, independent of the real estate, was provided.

An effort was, accordingly, made with success, to raise the sum of one thousand pounds, whereupon the act of incorporation was granted.

We are able to ascertain, with some degree of accuracy, the sources from which this amount was derived. The promptness with which the £1,000, required by the Legislature as the condition upon which an act of incorporation should be granted, was subscribed, was certainly commendable; and, considering the general pecuniary distress through the country, was creditable to the donors. The petition was presented on the 2d February; subsequent to which time, the committee upon the subject made their report; and it received the action of both bodies; and yet, before the 23d of March, the requisite amount had been raised.

The Spy of that date states that this sum had been "subscribed by the town of Leicester and a few gentlemen of that and this place" (Worcester.)

The action of the town of Leicester upon the subject deserves something more than a passing notice.

Though its soil was rugged, and difficult of cultivation, its

inhabitants were chiefly engaged in agriculture. There were no manufactures or mechanical employments beyond the ordinary and necessary handicrafts for the convenience of such a community.

It ranked only as the *twenty-first* town in the county, in the scale of wealth or population, and the one hundred and eighth in the state. It had borne its full share of the burdens of the war, and, beyond the taxes which had been levied to sustain the war and pay the war debt, its citizens had contributed, in one form and another, over eighteen thousand dollars during the last three years of that struggle, to help carry it on.

Its population could not have exceeded ten or eleven hundred, and an appeal to these, with their limited wealth and exhausted resources, might have been regarded as somewhat desperate. But, when it was made, it found the people of the town alive to their interest, and willing to venture upon the exercise, of, to say the least, a doubtful authority, in assuming the contribution, by a tax, of a liberal portion of the requisite sum.

On the 15th March, 1784, a town meeting was held, at which the following resolution was adopted: "Taking into consideration the peculiar advantages arising to the community, as well as particular societies, by encouraging the education of youth in piety, virtue, and the several branches of good literature in this, our rising nation, a proposal for establishing an academy in this town being laid before the Great and General Court of this Commonwealth, founded by the generosity of Ebenezer Crafts, of Sturbridge, and Jacob Davis, of Charlton, Esquires, etc ;" it then proceeds to appropriate "the sum of £500, of this State's consolidated securities, the annual interest thereof to be applied to the sole use of educating youth as above named, so long as said academy or school shall be continued in this town. But, upon failure or removal contrary to the true spirit and meaning of said vote of the town, then the money or sum of £500 be refunded to the inhabitants of said town."

And the Treasurer was, accordingly, directed to subscribe that amount "to the incorporation of said academy."

I am not able to fix the names or amounts of those who made up the balance of the £1,000. But we have the names of these, and other donors to the funds, at or soon after its incorporation, to the amount of £1,355, including the above sum of £500, of which £867 was by the town and citizens of Leicester.

The names of these early benefactors of the institution were the Hon. Moses Gill, who gave £150; Thomas Denny, Thomas Newhall, Rufus Putnam, and Jeduthan Baldwin, each of whom gave £100; Reuben Swan £50; John Southgate, Samuel Denny, Joseph Allen, Timothy Bigelow, each £30; Isaiah Thomas, £20; Caleb Amidown, £18; Samuel Green and Timothy Paine, £15; William Watson, £12; Samuel Green, Peter Taft, Samuel Watson, John Pierce,* Phinehas Jones, each £10. I have already mentioned the gift, subsequently made by Dr. Austin Flint, of land of the value of \$160. And, in 1786, Mr. Gill made a second donation in books to the value of \$260.

The value of the bell, which was given by Mr. Stickney, I have no means of stating.

Of several of these donors, I shall have occasion to speak in another connection, as Messrs. Gill, Denny, Newhall, Putnam, Allen, and Flint, were members of the board of trustees.

Of several of the others, I have been able to obtain brief notices, though I can but regret that, of some of them, so little is known.

Colonel JEDUTHAN BALDWIN deserves a prominent place in these notices on many accounts.

He became a contributor to the fund, in the sum above stated, in 1786, to enable the institution to struggle with the embarrassments that grew more oppressive, as the currency of

* I have not ascertained the residence of Mr. Pierce, though I am led to believe he was a citizen of Worcester.

the country depreciated, and the general stagnation of business paralyzed the industry of the citizen. For this generous and opportune assistance, the trustees passed a vote of thanks, May 23d, 1787.

Colonel Baldwin belonged to Brookfield. He was born in 1731, and died June 4th, 1788. A sermon, commemorative of his character, was preached by the Rev. Mr. Foster, of New Braintree, which was published.

He held, for many years, a prominent station in public life. As a military man, his reputation was distinguished. In the French war, at an early age, he held the commission of captain.

He took an active part in the measures of the Revolution, and was a member of the first Provincial Congress that convened in October, 1774. Its records shew that he took a prominent part in its proceedings.

He was, moreover, a member of the convention of the committees of correspondence that met at Worcester, in August, 1774, being associated with Judge Jedediah Foster, and Captain Phinehas Upham on that occasion.

The importance of these trusts will be understood when it is remembered that, to these congresses [and conventions, the government of the province was practically committed for several months after October, 1774, during which time the opposition to the mother country was assuming its form and consistency.

He early took part, as a military man, in the revolutionary struggle, and, upon the organization of the continental forces, was promoted to the rank of colonel, in which, it is said, "his conduct procured for him the co-operation of the first characters, and received the general approbation and esteem of his fellow-soldiers and citizens.*"

From a notice of him, in the *Spy* of the 19th June, 1788,

* In General Lincoln's expedition against Shays, in the winter of 1786-7, Colonel Baldwin commanded a body of volunteers from Brookfield, of fifty men, under command of Colonel Crafts.

I quote that he was "not only a soldier and a patriot, but he was a Christian." "He was a pleasant companion and a faithful friend,"—"the virtues of humanity were his."

Surely his name should be held in grateful remembrance by Leicester Academy for his friendship to her in her weakness, and, in a sketch of her history, he deservedly holds a place.

REUBEN SWAN was of Leicester, a native of that town. Though in no way distinguished among her citizens, he was always respected as an upright and honest man, whose influence and example were always in the right direction. For many years, he kept a respectable public house in the town,* but the latter part of life was spent in independent retirement upon his farm close by the village.†

His first wife was Rachael Putnam, of Sutton, and, among his children, was the wife of Hon. N. P. Denny, one of the trustees of the academy, and Samuel Swan, Esq., of Hubbardston, already mentioned as one of the earliest scholars in the academy. Mr. Swan died May 2d, 1825, aged 77.

JOHN SOUTHGATE was a native of Leicester, and a grandson of the first settler of the name in that town, who came from England, in 1715. The Hon. Robert Southgate, of Scarborough', was an elder brother of the subject of this notice.

Mr. Southgate was a highly intelligent farmer, and was much employed in public business, and as a surveyor, conveyancer, and general manager of business for his townsmen. Like so many of his neighbors, he was early active in the measures of the Revolution, and became adjutant of a regiment of "minute-men" raised in and around Leicester, of which Colonel William Henshaw was commander.

On the occasion of the alarm of the 19th April, 1775, he proceeded forthwith to Cambridge, where he remained with the army a few weeks, till the new organization of the troops rendered his further services unnecessary.

* The house stood where the house of Hiram Knight, Esq., now stands.

† His house was the same now occupied by J. A. Smith, Esq.

He was an extensive owner of land upon the Penobscot River, near Oldtown, and was drowned in a branch of that river, near the last mentioned town. His death was attended with circumstances indicating that it was an act of violence.

The Maine branch of the family has been numerous and distinguished in church and state. A son of John Southgate, of the same name, died under peculiar circumstances, in the lifetime of his father, in 1804. Two only of the family now remain in Leicester. He resided in the easterly part of the town, a short distance from the great post road, as now travelled, and was possessed of a handsome estate.

He was cut off in the vigor of manhood, but left his benefaction to the academy among the evidences of his public spirit as a citizen.

SAMUEL DENNY was a native of the town, and son of Daniel Denny, the first settler of the name in Leicester, who came from England with Richard Southgate, in 1715. He was born in 1731, and was brother of Thomas Denny, who was a leading man in the province prior to the revolution, and died greatly lamented, in 1774.

Colonel Samuel Denny was a farmer, but was often called into public life, and took an active part in the revolution.

He was first commissioned as a captain in 1767, but, in 1774, was lieutenant colonel of a regiment of minute-men which was raised in Leicester and vicinity about the commencement of the revolutionary war.

At the alarm of the 19th April, 1775, he repaired to Cambridge, where he remained till the troops had been newly organized. Among other services he performed, he commanded a regiment of militia in 1777, in an expedition to Clavarack in New York.

In 1788, he was a member of the convention that adopted the Constitution of the United States, having, the year previous, represented the town in the General Court.

He died at the age of eighty-six, in 1817, leaving several children, one of whom married T. W. Ward, of Shrews-

bury, Sheriff of the County. Another was the Hon. N. P. Denny, and another the father of Henry A. and Joseph A., members of the Board of Trustees.

He was a friend and patron of the academy, as was manifested by his contribution to its funds.

TIMOTHY BIGELOW belonged to Worcester, and filled a more important place in history than either of the persons already named. Originally a blacksmith, he was found a ready and strong champion for the rights of the colonies, and became an honored associate with the leading patriots of the day. To speak of all he did as a public citizen would be to recite the early movements, public and private, in the county, towards resisting the encroachments of the Crown, his marching at the head of his company of minute-men on hearing of the battle of Lexington, his leading one of the divisions as major of the troops in that memorable expedition up the Kennebec, and against Quebec, his being made prisoner in the attack upon that city, his being promoted, on being exchanged, to the office of lieutenant colonel, and subsequently to that of colonel, and to follow him at the head of the 15th Massachusetts regiment of the line to Saratoga, Rhode Island, Verplank's Point, Valley Forge, and West Point, in all which fields he bore an honorable part.

On his retiring from the army, he returned to Worcester, and partially resumed his former avocation. He was one of the original grantors of the town of Montpelier in Vermont.

But, though his affairs were somewhat straitened, and he encountered embarrassments in resuming a life for which his connexion with the army for seven or eight years, had, in a measure, unfitted him, he was one of the earliest contributors to the funds of the academy, bearing testimony thereby of his being as ready and willing to make sacrifices to sustain a free government as he had been to achieve its establishment in the field.

His descendants have been among the distinguished men of Massachusetts.

His son Timothy, afterwards of Medford, was many years Speaker of the House of Representatives, an eminent lawyer, whose son, John P., was, for some time, Secretary of the Commonwealth, afterwards Mayor of Boston, etc., and whose daughter married the Hon. Abbott Lawrence, late American Minister to the Court of St. James. A grandson of Colonel Bigelow is now one of the Judges of the Supreme Court.

Colonel Bigelow was a native of Worcester, the son of Daniel Bigelow, and died March 31st, 1790, at the age of 50.

His intellect was of a high order, and joined, as it was, to an ardent temperament, a generous spirit, and the dignity and grace of manner of an accomplished soldier, it gave him a leading rank and position among the men of '76.*

ISAIAH THOMAS was one of the earliest friends of the academy, and, to the hour of his death, regarded it with interest, as was manifested by a generous legacy in his last will.

From a brief memoir of him in the History of Worcester, I learn that he was a native of Boston, and was born January 19th, 1749.

Bound an apprentice to a printer before six years of age, his early education was neglected, and only supplied by his own personal exertion and perseverance.

He worked, for some time, at his trade in Halifax, went thence to Portsmouth, N. H., and then returned to Boston. He was again absent at the south, but did not fix himself at any place as a permanent residence. And, having returned to Boston, he there established the "Massachusetts Spy," March 7th, 1771.

He was himself one of the strongest writers for the paper, which early took high and independent ground in the approaching controversy upon the subject of the duties and rights of the colonies.

In consequence of the hostility of the government, he was

* For this sketch of Colonel Bigelow, as well as for many other facts in this report, I am indebted to the excellent History of Worcester, by the late Wm. Lincoln, Esq., whose accuracy and labor have saved me much time and trouble in gathering materials for this work.

induced to remove his paper to Worcester early in 1775. In September, of that year, he was appointed postmaster.

He became a very extensive book publisher, and had several large bookstores; among them, one in New Hampshire, one in New York, and one in Maryland.

He established and sustained several periodical publications, which were distinguished for the ability of their contributors.

In 1802, he gave up his extensive business, as printer and publisher, and retired with a fortune. In 1810, he published his elaborate work, the *History of Printing*.

In 1812, he was appointed one of the Justices of the Court of Sessions, and held the office two years.

He was the founder of the American Antiquarian Society, to which he was a munificent benefactor during his lifetime, and by his last will.

He received the honorary degree of A. M. from Dartmouth College in 1814, and LL. D. from Alleghany College, in 1818.

He died April 4th, 1831, at the age of 82. One of his grand daughters is the wife of one of the judges of the Supreme Court, who was fitted for college at the academy, and a grandson, who was fitted for college at the academy, is also a Judge of the same Court.

His friendship to the academy continued to the last, and by his will, he left pecuniary legacies to the institution, amounting to \$4,686.36, besides some lands in Maine and Vermont.

CALEB AMIDOWN belonged to Charlton, and was of a class of men which were once scattered through the country, whose independence of thought and opinion gave character and consistency to the public sentiment of the community at large. Though these men had little other training than the development which circumstances produced, the lack of education was more than supplied by the strong common sense which had been disciplined in the school of necessity.

Though the more immediate sphere of Mr. Amidown was

circumscribed within the limits of a single town, yet his influence was felt, and his name and character were known, through a much wider circuit. And as an early benefactor of the academy, his memory should be preserved in the annals of its struggles and success. He was born in 1736, in the town of Dudley, but lived most of his life in Charlton.

He taught school in early life, and was afterwards much employed as a land surveyor, and as such, was engaged by the government, in surveying the confiscated estates of the "refugees," in the revolution. For many years in succession, he was a member of the legislature, and as such, was a strong supporter of the government during the "Shay's war," as it was called. Among other responsible offices he was called to fill, was that of "Excise Master," for the county of Worcester, after the close of the revolution.

Mr. Amidown was a lineal descendant of the French Huguenots, who fled to this country after the taking of Rochelle, and arrived in Salem in 1630. He died in 1799, at the age of sixty-three.

SAMUEL GREEN, called in the record "Captain," to distinguish him from his son of the same name, also a subscriber to the funds of the institution, belonged to Leicester. They were both farmers, living in the south part of the town, and descendants of Samuel Green, one of the first settlers of Leicester.

Captain Green was more generally known as "Deacon," he having been a worthy officer in the Baptist Church in the southerly part of that town.

He was a man of firmness and intelligence, and his name is frequently found upon the committees who were appointed previous to and during the revolution, to draw instructions to the representatives of the town in the Provincial Congress. He died Feb. 20th, 1811, aged eighty-one.

PETER TAFT was, I believe, from Uxbridge, and, from 1781 to '85, kept a public house in Leicester, in the house kept for many years by Mr. Swan.

He removed from Leicester after ceasing to keep a public house, and died in Uxbridge.

WILLIAM WATSON was of Leicester, born in 1745, in Barrington, R. I.

He was a substantial and respectable farmer, married Susannah Bullock, of Rehoboth, 1769, and raised up a family of children, all of whom have removed from Leicester. His residence was about a mile from the academy, on the road leading to Charlton, where he died, March 13th, 1828, aged eighty-three.

SAMUEL WATSON was also of Leicester, and lived in the westerly part of the town. He married Ruth Baldwin of Spencer, in 1772. One of his daughters married the Hon. James Draper, of Spencer, and one of his sons still lives in Leicester.

PHINEAS JONES was of Worcester, and resided upon the great post-road leading to Leicester, where he kept a public house.

TIMOTHY PAINE belonged to Worcester. He was a leading and prominent citizen of that town, and I am indebted to Mr. Lincoln for this notice of him. He was born in Bristol, R. I., was graduated at Harvard College, in 1748. He held, at different times, the offices of Clerk of the Courts, Register of Probate, Register of Deeds, Councillor under the Province Charter, a Mandamus Councillor, in 1747, and, besides these, was Selectman, Town Clerk, and Representative of the town, showing the estimate in which he was held in this community.

“Solid talents, practical sense, candor, sincerity, affability, and mildness, were the characteristics of his life, which closed July 17th, 1793, at the age of sixty-three years.”

At the first meeting of the trustees, they voted to accept subscriptions in public securities, and appointed a committee to prepare and send circular letters to the selectmen of the several towns in the county, soliciting aid by subscriptions in money, or public securities.

It was the original design of the trustees that the instruction of the pupils should be gratuitous. But, from an apprehension that the income of the funds might prove insufficient to defray the expenses of instruction, it was voted that the deficiency should be made up by tuition, at the rate of one shilling per week, for those attending the principal, and nine-pence for those who belonged to the English department.

In August, of the same year, subscription papers were sent to the several clergymen in the county, to be presented to their congregations, for aid to the academy. And, in the same year, the legislature granted it the aid of a lottery, a very common mode of raising money in that day, for the purpose of repairing its buildings, and making necessary additions to the same.

Not content with all these efforts, the trustees, in 1785, took it upon themselves to make personal solicitations of individuals, for contribution to the funds.

The moneys which had been subscribed by the town and sundry individuals of its inhabitants in 1784, do not seem to have been paid until July of the following year; for I find a vote at that time adopted, that, “whereas the town of Leicester have bestowed, to the use of the academy, the sum of £500, and divers individuals of the same town have respectively given sums of money for the use aforesaid, upon this condition, viz.: that said academy should be and remain in the town of Leicester, aforesaid, therefore that the treasurer be, and he is hereby empowered and directed to give receipts to the several donors aforesaid, agreeably thereto, and that the principal of the several sums aforesaid should revert and be refunded to the several donors aforesaid, and their respect-

ive heirs and successors, if, at any time, the academy aforesaid should be removed from the town of Leicester."

In July, 1786, the amount of funds of the academy was £1128 10s. in public securities, £85 14s. 1 1-2d. interest in arrear, and \$433.85 in "Pierce's certificates," the nature or value of which is not stated.

This, however, was merely the nominal value of these funds, for such was the fluctuating character of the public securities that, with all the effort on the part of the government to sustain their credit, they were constantly depreciating. "New tenor" bills were worth, in 1781, but one quarter as much as silver in the market, while the value of "old tenor" bills was not more than one to forty. And, in 1786, the fluctuation was so rapid that a person was appointed by the inhabitants of the town of Leicester to report weekly the value of paper money and public securities.

It will be borne in mind that the events which soon after resulted in what is known as Shay's Insurrection had been developing themselves for some time. And, as we shall have occasion to see, the condition of the national finances was such that the funds of the academy were found inadequate to meet the current expenses of the institution.

It was only by a constant struggle that the trustees kept it alive.

The building of the academy was, from the first, inconvenient, and but poorly adapted to the purposes of the school. In 1786, the trustees provided so far towards remedying this defect that they adopted measures, and, in part, procured materials, for building a more convenient house. But they were compelled to abandon the enterprise, and sold these materials.

Contributions to the amount of £834 were obtained during the year 1786, which, I suppose, were included in the sums already mentioned. Of these, £367 were from individuals

in Leicester, and the balance from gentlemen from other towns.

Still the institution was in debt; and, in July, 1787, a committee was raised to devise means by which the arrears into which its finances had fallen might be discharged. The committee reported that they had already expended £40 beyond their income, and recommended that one preceptor should be dispensed with, and the tuition of the pupils should be raised.

The funds, in October, 1787, consisted of £1128 10s. in "State securities," £99 12s. 8 1-4d. interest in arrear, and \$850 in "Pierce's certificates."

In consequence of these embarrassments, and the reduced number of students, Mr. Stone, the principal, was allowed absence from duty, and the school went on under the charge of Mr. Crosby alone.

The next year, 1788, the treasurer was instructed to dispose of the depreciated interest upon the securities held by him to enable him to pay the outstanding demands against the corporation, so far as the proceeds would go.

At their annual meeting, in 1789, the trustees took measures to represent the condition of the institution to the public through the newspapers in Boston and Worcester. But, in October, although nominally possessed of public securities, and "Pierce's certificates" to the amount of £1534 13s 11 3-4d., in consequence of the extent to which these had depreciated, and the small number of its pupils, together with the amount of debt which they had already incurred, it was voted that it was not "prudent to make further provision at present for an instructor or instructors, unless other means can be obtained for its support."

As a last resort, a committee was raised to consider the expediency of removing the institution from Leicester, and to ascertain what encouragement could be obtained for such removal, in the way of subscriptions, or proposals from towns and individuals.

The academy had come to a crisis. Further progress seemed hopeless. The meeting of the trustees was adjourned for a month, and the steward was requested to remain in the building, with an offer that, if he should be no longer employed in that capacity, he might occupy it free of rent, until their annual meeting in May then next.

In November, '89, the adjourned meeting was held, when the trustees declared it was their intention, when seeking proposals in respect to the future location of the academy, to embrace the town of Leicester. And the consideration of its removal was postponed for the present.

A proposal was, at the same time, made to the town of Leicester, that the trustees would employ a preceptor for the term of one year, if the town would assume the responsibility of his salary, so far as the deficiency of the tuition of the scholars might be.

This proposition was accepted by the town, and the sum of £50 was voted for the purpose of making up the salary of the preceptor, if so much should be necessary beyond the amount received for tuition. And Mr. Sumner was accordingly paid in part for his services as preceptor, the following year, from the treasury of the town.

This was, indeed, a dark hour in the history of the academy. Sixty pounds a year, \$200, was the utmost the trustees dared to offer as a salary to the preceptor, and even this sum was beyond their ability to pay.

This was during that gloomy period of the history of the Commonwealth, and the country just prior to the adoption of the Federal Constitution, when public credit was bankrupt, and individual confidence and enterprise were paralyzed.

The horrors of a civil war had been just escaped, but the government and its subjects were, alike, poor, and its councils were distracted.

The adoption of the constitution was at once felt in all the interests of the Commonwealth; confidence revived; credit was restored; business started into new life; and the cause

of education shared in the general impulse which this event gave to the prosperity of the country.

The trustees, in 1791, applied to the legislature for permission to raise £600 by means of a lottery, to enable them to pay off their debts, and relieve the institution from the embarrassments which had been occasioned by the depreciation of their funds.

At that day, the true character of lotteries never seems to have suggested itself to moralists or legislators. Bad in morals, and unwise in economy, they were resorted to without hesitation or scruple as a means of raising money for the most sacred and noble purposes, by appealing to that gambling spirit which is so universally prevalent, and playing upon the cupidity and weakness of a class of citizens who ought to be protected, by the law, against their own improvidence, instead of being tempted into courses which nothing but legislation, and the purposes sought to be accomplished, would render respectable.

The best men in the land were constituted managers of these schemes, and churches were built, and colleges endowed, by moneys thus raised.

The lottery was granted, and, after a long delay, and no inconsiderable difficulty, \$1,419.22 found its way into the treasury of the academy, as the proceeds of the scheme.

In 1793, the legislature made a grant of a township of land in Maine to the academy, a part of which was sold in 1798, and a part the year following, and \$9,200 was thereby realised.

In 1794, the state of the funds shewed State securities held by the trustees to the amount of £1,565 12s 7 1-4d, with outstanding debts due them £426 12s 3 1-2d, while they stood debtors to the treasurer for payments advanced by him in specie on their account, £66 11s.

From this time the pecuniary condition of the institution began to mend. In 1796, it had £1,565 11s. 7 1-4d. in State securities, and £717 10 1-2s. in specie. Five pounds was added

to the salary of each of the preceptors ; the trustees began to take measures for the erection of a new building, and provided a stage for the annual exhibitions, at the expence of £2 3s 1d.

In 1797, while the State securities remained the same, the specie value of the other securities held by the treasurer had increased to £2,752 12s. 1-2d. making, with arrears of interest, a total of £4,519 11s. 4 3-4d.

In 1798, the treasurer's statement is exhibited in the form of federal money, and presents the amount, in that form, of \$15,367.93.

The funds continued to increase from that time onward, till 1804, when they had amounted to \$16,703.68.

Measures had been adopted, as has already been stated, from time to time, from an early period, to supply the defects in the accommodations for the school by altering and enlarging the academy building. An act, granting a lottery "for the repairing of Leicester Academy, and making additional buildings thereto," was passed in June, 1785, limiting the sum to be raised to £600, and constituting James Allen, Thomas Newhall, and Thomas Denny, the managers.

In January, '86, a committee was raised to draw a plan for a new building "upon a construction as they shall judge the most proper, convenient and elegant, considering the means provided for the purpose."

The same month, a plan was presented and accepted, for such a building, seventy-eight feet long, thirty-six wide, two stories high, with posts twenty-two feet. The school-room to be thirty-six by eighteen feet, and a hall thirty-six by twenty-six feet.

But, in October following, a new committee on the subject of erecting a new house was raised. No report was made until December 1799, when it was recommended to erect a brick house eighty-two by forty feet, three stories high.

This report, slightly modified, was accepted, and measures were taken to ascertain the cost of brick, etc., for the work.

The next October, the plan of the building was recom-

mitted, with a view of making some alterations therein, and a new committee appointed to ascertain the cost of materials, etc.

This committee on the plan recommended the one originally adopted, except some slight difference in the height of the building, and measures were adopted for procuring a working plan and specifications, that a contract might be entered into for its erection.

Nothing, however, was actually done upon the subject; and when, in November, 1802, a special meeting of the trustees was held to consider the subject of a new building, the only vote adopted was to put the present building into "decent and comfortable repair."

The original plan of erecting a brick structure, had been abandoned, and in August, 1803, the trustees directed such of their number as resided in Leicester, to obtain the plan of a building of wood, and an estimate of its expense.

In November, of that year, a plan was proposed, but no estimates of expense were furnished. In January, 1804, a new report was made in favor of a building, eighty-seven by thirty-five feet, with posts twenty-six feet high, with a projection forty feet in length, four feet in front; and estimates of expense, both in wood and brick, were furnished.

The trustees voted that the building should be of wood, and chose a committee to enter into a contract for the same, at not exceeding \$7000.

This committee consisted of Nathaniel Paine, Joseph Allen, Thomas Denny, Ebenezer Adams, and Aaron Bancroft.

The plan of the building was drawn by the aid of Rand White, an architect, at an expense, which is stated for the purpose of a comparison with modern prices, of \$9.84.*

Another committee, consisting of Messrs. Denny, Howe, Adams, Bancroft, and Stedman, was appointed, to locate the

* Mr. White belonged to Leicester, and died at the age of fifty-eight, September 20th, 1809, and was spoken of, in the papers of the day, as one of "the best mechanics in Worcester County."

new building, and purchase as much land adjoining that, belonging to the trustees, as might be necessary to accommodate it.

Under this vote, land, of the value of \$700, was purchased of Mr. Dall, of Boston, in 1804.* And Messrs. Denny, Adams, and Moore, were a new committee, to select the site for the new building.

Measures had been so far matured in May, 1805, that, on the 14th of that month, a public ceremony was had of laying the corner-stone of the new academy, which was attended by a large concourse of people. A procession was formed on the common in the following order, viz. First. Artificers employed in the erection of the building. Second. The corner-stone drawn by seventeen horses. Third. A band of music. Fourth. The President of the board,† the building committee,‡ and the trustees. Fifth. The magistrates of the vicinity, the selectmen of Leicester, the citizens, and last, the students of the academy.

In this order the procession moved through the street to the site of the building, where the master workman deposited the stone in its place. And the president, declaring the design of the building, commended it to the Divine favor.

The procession then moved to the meeting-house, where the exercises consisted of music, prayer, etc.

The papers of the day confirm the juvenile impressions of an eye-witness, that the occasion was one of interest and imposing effect. And as the scene comes back from the sleep of half a century, the stately form of the venerable president, surmounted by an immense white wig, and triangular cocked

* This parcel lay directly east of the land given by Colonels Crafts and Davis, and contained half an acre. It belonged, previous to 1788, to Joseph Sargent, and in that year was conveyed by John Southgate, his administrator, to Elijah Dix, subject to the right of Mr. Sargent's widow, to dower in the same. The same year, Dix conveyed it to Oliver Smith, of Boston, who, in 1796, conveyed it to William Dall, of Boston, and he, in November, 1804, conveyed it to the trustees of the academy. In all these conveyances, a small shop, standing on the premises, known as "Perrin's Hatter's Shop," was excepted.

† Rev. Dr. Sumner.

‡ These were Messrs. Denny, Adams, Moore, Paine and Howe.

hat, the dignified bearing of the other members of the board, the numerous crowd of well-dressed, quiet, respectable citizens, from this and the neighboring towns, as they moved in a long array to the inspiring strains of music, rise in the memory with a freshness, which many more recent and important incidents can hardly awaken.

The annual exhibition was that year omitted

Dr. Flint generously gave a parcel of land adjoining that purchased of Mr. Lopez's estate, as has been stated, for the accommodation of the new academy.*

Such was the progress in the work of the building, that, in January, 1806, the rooms in it were assigned, the rents fixed, and provision made for selling the old building.

The new building was three stories in height, surmounted by a neat belfry and cupola, and presented a handsome, well-proportioned *facade* and elevation. Its position was elevated, and, in its architectural proportions and effect, its exterior was a creditable work. Of the thoroughness or fitness of the workmanship, for the comfort of its inmates, those who ever occupied any of its rooms, and carried on the hopeless attempt to get the mastery of the cold winds that were rushing in at every crack, could bear testimony.

There were sixteen of these rooms, besides the school room and hall over it, which occupied the entire front of the main body of the building, and the dining room in the rear of the school room, and of the same length.

Six of these rooms were in each end of the building, and the other four in the two stories over the dining room. One of these rooms was assigned for the use of the English Preceptor, twelve for the scholars, and the remainder for the use of the steward.

At the same meeting in January, arrangements were made for dedicating the house by appropriate services, to consist of a prayer by the president, and an oration upon education

* A small parcel of land on which a part of the barn of the academy stood, was purchased in November, 1825, for the sum of \$8.

by the Rev. Dr. Bancroft, to be accompanied by suitable music.

On the 4th of July, 1806, a very appropriate day for such a ceremony, the dedication of the house took place, according to the previous arrangement, to the acceptance of a large assembly, who convened to witness the exercises.

These took place in the following order: A procession, consisting of a band of music, the students, preceptors, and trustees of the academy, was formed at the old academy, and moved to the new one, where formal possession was taken of the building by the trustees, which was followed by an address of the president.

Another procession was formed, consisting of the band, students, preceptors, and trustees of the academy, donors to its funds, selectmen of Leicester, civil and military officers, and citizens, and repaired to the meeting-house, where, after prayer by the president and singing by a choir, an oration was delivered by Rev. Dr. Bancroft. This was followed by other appropriate music, after which the trustees, donors, and invited guests, dined together in the new academy.

The address by Dr. Bancroft was characterized by taste and good sense; and a vote of thanks was adopted by the trustees to the president for his appropriate address, and to the orator, with a request of copies of their productions for publication; and the same were published.

The defective manner in which the new academy was built, was a source of constant expense and inconvenience to the trustees, as long as it stood; and every effort to render it comfortable and secure was unavailing.

The old academy buildings were disposed of at auction for \$217, and the old store adjoining them for \$6.50, showing to what degree of dilapidation these buildings had reached before a new academy was provided. The purchaser was Col. Thomas Denny, who removed the wings or ends of the building on to the south street, and fitted them for dwelling-

houses, where they remained till recently ; but the main body of the building was entirely taken down.

The cost of the new academy, exclusive of the land, was found to be \$9,054.36.

The trustees, in November, 1809, undertook to recover of the contractors, for the erection of the new academy, damages for its defective construction, but with what success does not appear by the records.

Among the buildings originally belonging to the trustees was a long, low structure, which had been occupied as a store by Daniel McFarland, Esq., and stood east of the old academy, close by the highway, and in which Mrs. Joseph Sargent held a right of dower.

In 1810, they thought best to dispose of this building, and in 1812, the same was sold and removed on to the "County Road," so called, where the same now stands, having been converted into a dwelling-house by Luther Ward.

In order to present this part of the report in connected order, I would add that, after struggling along till 1832, in their endeavors to render the academy building comfortable and convenient, the trustees, in June, of that year, unanimously voted to dispose of the same,* and erect a new building.

Gov. Lincoln, Messrs. Denny, Burnside, Allen, and Mixter were chosen a building committee. Mr. Elias Carter was employed as the architect, and on the 25th of December, 1833, the present academy was completed and dedicated for use.

The exercises, on this occasion, consisted of prayer by Rev. Mr. Stone, the vice president of the trustees, and addresses by Rev. Mr. Allen and Mr. Wright, the principal preceptor, the latter of which was published, together with a brief history of the academy.†

* The old building was sold to Benjamin N. Child, for \$400.

† This history I have had frequent occasions to refer to. It was prepared under direction of the building committee, by vote of the trustees.

This building was of brick ; the main part 42 by 40 feet, with wings each 30 feet square. The first story of the main building was appropriated to two school rooms. The entire cost of the work was about \$10,000.*

Notwithstanding the care and skill employed in the arrangement and construction of the building, it was found to be practically inconvenient in some respects. And when, by the munificent donation of Mr. Smith, and the other benefactions to the funds of the academy induced thereby, had placed the trustees in a condition to remedy these defects, several material alterations in the building were made in its interior construction, and the main body of it enlarged at a cost of about \$4200.

By this alteration, better accommodations for school and recitation rooms were obtained, and a very beautiful hall in the second story provided for lectures and general meetings of the students on occasions which call together the friends of the institution. The walls of this hall are appropriately decorated by portraits of several of the distinguished benefactors of the institution, which, it is hoped, will be hereafter multiplied as a suitable recognition of the memory of those whose bounty has given to it its means of so far meeting the wants of the community.

Upon the completion of these alterations and enlargements, an address in every way suited to the occasion was delivered by Mr. Washburn, the principal preceptor, which was published. The re-dedication of the house took place on the 26th of October, 1853, in which the president, the Rev. Mr. Bardwell, Hon. Mr. Kinnicutt, and Mr. Washburn, took part in addition to the address of the principal, the exercises being in the new hall of the institution. Since these alterations, there is little to desire in the way of accommodation for the ordinary wants of an academy. And it is to be hoped that

*An addition to the main building was found necessary, and, in 1834, provision was made for erecting it at an expense not to exceed \$1200, and the same was accordingly done.

In 1836, a vote was passed to add a cupola to the building, and at an expense not to exceed \$300.

the friends of the institution may hereafter find a more useful and beneficial application of money than has been found necessary during so much of its existence, in fitting and repairing the buildings in which its operations have been carried on.

To resume the history of the funds, it was found that there remained, after the payment of the expenses attendant upon the erection of the new academy, in 1806, \$8992.21.

This sum grew less for several successive years after 1807. But, in 1814, the principal fund amounted to \$9000, and the arrears of interest to \$436.40. In 1816, the principal had increased to \$9866.60, and, in 1818, a committee was raised to obtain more funds "for promoting the usefulness and reputation of the academy."

The Hon. Mr. Allen resigned the office of treasurer, which he had so long and so honorably held, in November, 1819, when it was found that there were \$9966.60 principal, and \$482.94 interest in arrears in his hands.

This gradually increased, so that, in 1822, the fund amounted to \$10,400.31.

This increase, however, was not, from the ordinary accumulation of interest above the annual expenditure, on account of the institution. In 1811, Capt. Thomas Newhall left a legacy of \$1000 to the corporation, and the interest of another \$1000 to be annually expended in defraying the tuition of children in Leicester, living more than one mile from the academy. The money from the first of these legacies was received by the academy in 1814, as is stated in the brief sketch of Leicester Academy prepared by the Hon. Mr. Bigelow, and published in connexion with the address of Mr. Wright.

From the same source, it would seem that the appeal made by the trustees, in 1818, was not entirely fruitless, as the sum of \$150 was given in January, 1819, by Alpheus Smith, and \$50 by Hon. Dwight Foster. This was followed,

in 1822, by donations from Henry Sargent, Esq., of \$178.65 ; Hon. Nathaniel P. Denny, \$100 ; Dr. Austin Flint, \$100 ; James Smith, Esq., \$55.

In 1823, the Commonwealth gave the institution a small estate in Paxton, formerly the property of Archibald McDonald, which had escheated to the State, of the value of about \$400, which was afterwards realized to them in the sale thereof to Gardner Wilson in 1825.

The year 1823 may be regarded as the turning point in the history of this institution, when, by the liberal bequest of Captain Israel Waters, of Charlton, it was placed in a condition to meet the new demands that were about to be made upon it to keep pace with the schools and other institutions in the Commonwealth.

With the constant tax to which the trustees had been subjected to keep their buildings in tolerable repair, and their inability to build new ones ; with the improved condition of the common schools, which, in a few years after, became an object of such general interest, which must materially have withdrawn students from the academy, unless a corresponding advance were made in the instruction furnished by this academy, it is not difficult to see that this was a turning crisis in its affairs.

But the same Providence that had hitherto sustained it through adversity as well as prosperity, was pleased to incline the heart of an excellent man to make the academy an object of his bounty, and to save it from that fate which so strongly threatened it.

Before speaking more at large of the legacy of Captain Waters, I may recall a donation to the academy, the same year, of \$432, by sundry individuals, mostly of Leicester.

The object of the gift was, to supply, in some measure, the want of a philosophical apparatus for the academy ; and in obtaining the subscription, no one was more active than James Smith, Esq., who has already been alluded to

The names and purposes of the donors are contained in the following subscription paper, viz. :

“LEICESTER, August 12th, 1823.

“We, whose names are undersigned, feeling desirous to aid the cause of science, and feeling also deeply interested in the prosperity of the academy in Leicester, of which town we are inhabitants, and believing that both these ends may be promoted by procuring, for the use of that institution, an apparatus for illustrating, by experiments, the principles of natural philosophy, do agree, for this purpose, to pay the sums set opposite our names to the trustees of Leicester Academy, on demand, upon the following terms and conditions, viz. : The money subscribed shall be expended in the purchase of such articles of a philosophical and astronomical apparatus as a majority of the subscribers shall elect, proper regard being had to the wishes and opinions of said trustees. The apparatus thus purchased shall be and remain to the use of the academy, under the direction of the trustees, so long as the academy shall remain located in Leicester. And, in case of the removal of the academy from the town of Leicester, the property in said apparatus shall revert to the subscribers, their heirs or assigns.

“It is understood, as the wish of the subscribers, that the object and terms of their subscription should be recorded in the records of said academy.”

The paper was headed by the name of Alpheus Smith, with a subscription of \$50. Henry Sargent subscribed \$40. John A. Smith \$30. Phineas S. (Thomas) Denny, Isaac Southgate, Nathaniel P Denny each \$25. Horace Smith \$15. Horace Mc Farland, Whittemore & Howard, John Woodcock, Adeline Denny, Emory Washburn, Cheney Hatch and Edward Flint each \$10. Reuben Merriam, Samuel D. Watson, John Nelson, Mr. Winslow of Portland, Daniel P. Haynes, Joseph D. Sargent, Lyman Waite, Daniel Upham, Thomas Bottomly, Joshua Lamb, William Sprague, Barnard Upham, Abram Howe and John Sargent each \$5. Joshua Murdock \$4. William Newhall, Hiram Knight, Harvey Tainter, Robert Watson, Increase S. Smith and Ebenezer Dunbar, each \$3, and Harry Ward, Benjamin Conklin, Jr., Henry A. Denny, Joseph A. Denny, Hori Brown, Abel Bartlett, Daniel Kent, Emory Drury, Jona. Trask, Amos Whittemore, Hosea Goldthwaite, William Henshaw, and James B. Whitcomb, in various sums.

The name of James Smith is not upon the above paper, but as the whole apparatus purchased amounted to over \$500, and the above subscriptions show an aggregate of \$432 only, there is good reason to suppose that the difference was supplied from his bounty.

In 1827, Professor Farrar, of Harvard University, made a donation to the academy, of a series of text-books on natural philosophy, called the "Cambridge Course" on that subject, which the trustees duly acknowledged in a note of thanks to that eminent philosopher and mathematician.

Of the several persons above named, little more could be said, than that, according to their means, they were good citizens, and the friends and supporters of good order, and our social institutions.

HENRY SARGENT was a native of Leicester, the son of Joseph Sargent, born November 16th, 1783. His mother was a sister of Col. Thomas Denny, and, though left early an orphan and without property, he rose to a commanding position in wealth and influence in the town. He was a man of a strong, well-balanced mind, sound judgment, and great energy of character. He married, in 1812, a grand-daughter of Col. Samuel Denny, whom I have before mentioned. He was a merchant and manufacturer of cards, residing for many years in a house afterwards destroyed by fire, at the intersection of the south with the main street, in Leicester. In 1821, he was a member of the convention for amending the constitution, and, although not a debater, exercised a good degree of influence in that most respectable body. He was conservative in his views, upright and honorable in his dealings; and when the town lost the benefit of his services and influence, there was a general feeling that it was a loss greatly to be regretted. He died at the age of forty-six, in March, 1829. Two of his sons, fitted for college at the academy, were graduated at Cambridge, and are distinguished physicians in Worcester.

Of James Smith, I shall have occasion to speak hereafter, as

well as of Mr. Foster, Mr. Denny, and Dr. Flint, in their connection with the board of trustees of which they were members.

The hand of a kind Providence seems to have been displayed in favor of this academy in a remarkable manner, on several occasions. Among these, was the devise of Captain Israel Waters, of Charlton, to which I have already referred. Considering the time, the then condition of the academy, and the amount of his donation, it forms one of the most important epochs in the history of the institution. He was a man who had acquired a competency by his own industry, was without children, and felt disposed to leave the bulk of his estate to some public institution. His attention was directed towards Leicester Academy, one of whose founders had resided in the same town, and under his direction his last will was drawn by his legal adviser, the Hon. N. P. Denny, one of the trustees of the academy, long an active supporter of it.

The probate of the will was sharply contested by the heirs at law of the testator, but finally established April, 1824.

It contained the following provision :

“ All the rest and residue of said fund, arising from the sales of my estate, as aforesaid, and all other of my estate of every description, I give and bequeath to the Trustees of Leicester Academy, in the County of Worcester, and to their successors in office, with the following restrictions and limitations, to wit: It is to be denominated the ‘Waters Fund,’ for the purpose of supporting an instructor, or instructors, of the Congregational Calvinistic order, in the higher branches of literature, at the discretion of the said trustees, in the town of Leicester forever, and at said academy so long as it shall remain in said town. But should the said trustees aforesaid ever see fit to remove the academy from said town of Leicester, and a removal of the same should actually take effect, then and in that case it is my will that the Waters Fund aforesaid be taken by the trustees belonging to said town, and the interest thereof be expended in maintaining an instructor or instructors as aforesaid, in a public school, to be called the Waters School or Academy, in case an act for the incorporation of the same should be obtained to fix it in the said town of Leicester. And in case the time should ever arrive in which there should be no trustee of Leicester residing in and belonging to said town, and said academy at such time should be removed therefrom, then and in that event I give and bequeath the Waters Fund aforesaid to

the selectmen of the town of Leicester for the time being, whom I appoint trustees thereof, for them to expend the interest of said fund in the way and manner aforesaid, in the town of Leicester forever."*

He appointed Austin Flint and N. P. Denny, of Leicester, and Asa Bacon, of Charlton, Esqs., executors of the will.

The will bears date October 4th, 1823. It came up for probate at the December Court of the same year, and in January, 1824, was approved by the Judge of Probate. An appeal was taken by the heirs at law, to the Supreme Court, and after a hearing in that court the same was approved in April, 1824. The Hon. Levi Lincoln and Samuel M. Burnside, Esqs., acted as counsel for the trustees in carrying through the probate of the will, to the entire approbation of the trustees.

COL. ASA BACON, who acted as one of the executors of Capt. Waters's will, was a highly respectable and intelligent citizen of Charlton, to whom the testator had been a patron and friend. He died in 1854, having lived to see the academy placed, by the benefaction of Capt. Waters, and other distinguished friends of the institution, in a condition which, we trust, leaves its permanence and success beyond any reasonable doubt.

The reason that probably led to the provision in this will, and the subscription paper to which allusion has been made, by which the gift should cease if the academy should be removed from Leicester, was, that about that time the project for such a removal had been renewed, and articles favoring such a measure had appeared in some of the papers of the county.

The attention of the trustees was called to the subject in 1823, and a committee raised to consider the expediency of removing it; and in August, 1824, they appointed another

* A copy of this will is entered on record in the books of the academy, with a vote of the trustees, expressive of a sense of acknowledgment on their part, and pledging the corporation to observe the limitations and restrictions therein.

committee to inquire into the history of the funds, and the conditions upon which any part of them were obtained.

An able and interesting report was made, by which it appears that, of the permanent funds of the academy, \$3890 were conditional, and \$6865 unconditional, while the buildings, and most, if not all, of the lands belonging to the trustees, were held by an unconditional title.

This was prior to any payments into the treasury from the legacy of Capt. Waters.

The average room rent and tuition paid by the students, for the five previous years, had been \$703 annually.

With this amount of funds, and the increase from tuition thus limited, and with a building unfit for use, and going fast to decay, it is not difficult to perceive that when the legacy of Capt. Waters took effect, the institution was in a condition to appreciate the munificence of that gift.

We call it munificence, and such it was when tested by the amount of resources belonging to the academy, and the rank and condition in life of the donor.

CAPT. ISRAEL WATERS was the architect of his own fortune. He was a native of Sutton, and began life with very humble means, beyond the trade he had been taught, and a strong resolution to succeed. He established himself in business in the northerly part of Charlton, where he carried on the manufacture of leather with great success, and acquired a handsome estate.

The life of such a man has in it very little incident to give interest to a biographical notice; but his name will be preserved and gratefully remembered as long as this institution, so distinguished as an object of his bounty, shall continue to fulfil the high purposes for which it was created.

I am not able to state precisely the amount of Captain Waters's legacy to the academy, at the time of making his will. But from the statements of record in respect to the Waters Fund, in 1828, 1829 and 1830, I infer that the original amount was about \$8000, exceeding that, perhaps,

by three or four hundred dollars. In 1842, the principal of the fund was declared to be \$9200.

The next accession of funds by the academy was upon the death of its early and constant friend, the Hon. Isaiah Thomas, in 1831.

This was ascertained to be \$4686.36, besides certain parcels of real estate in Maine and Vermont, from which the trustees afterwards derived a considerable sum more.

The executors of Mr. Thomas's will, John W. Lincoln and Moses Thomas, Esqs., having paid this legacy to the trustees, they adopted the following vote :

"That the trustees receive with sentiments of gratitude the legacy of said Thomas, and that the said legacy be faithfully appropriated in aid of the objects for which said academy was incorporated."

Almost simultaneous with the receipt of Mr. Thomas's legacy, a legacy of \$250 was paid to the trustees by Theophilus Wheeler, Esq., and Mrs. Rebekah Maccarty, executors of the last will of Nathaniel Maccarty, Esq., late of Worcester, deceased.

This sum was also received with expressions of gratitude by the trustees, and a pledge on their part that it should be faithfully appropriated.

NATHANIEL MACCARTY, for many years before his death, was a gentleman of fortune, living retired from business in Worcester. He was the son of the Rev. Mr. Maccarty, one of the first board of trustees. For many years he was engaged in mercantile business in Petersham, but returned to spend a considerable portion of his life in his native town, where he died in 1831.

In 1833, the total funds of the institution were \$21,970.67. In 1834, they were \$20,525.57, out of which there was due the sum of \$5000, which the trustees had borrowed in the erection of the new academy. In 1840, they were \$14,496.13. In 1844, they had diminished to the sum of \$13,611.72.

In August, 1845, the trustees were informed that the late Hon. Daniel Waldo, for many years a trustee and patron of

the institution, had, by his will, left them a legacy of \$6000.

A vote accepting this, and expressing to the relatives of Mr. Waldo a sense of the obligation thereby created, was adopted by the trustees, and an extract from his will entered upon the records of the institution.

"I give and bequeath to Leicester Academy, six thousand dollars, subject to the following conditions, viz.: that the said six thousand dollars shall constitute a permanent fund, to be called the Waldo Fund, and be invested, as soon as may be, by the trustees of said academy, for the time being, in personal obligations, with collateral security of real estate, in the County of Worcester aforesaid; the actual value of which, in every instance, shall be, at a fair appraisement, not less than three times the amount of the sum meant to be secured thereby, and the interest only of the said sum of six thousand dollars shall be annually appropriated and applied in payment for able instruction, in the various branches of knowledge usually taught in similar institutions."

The next accession to the funds of the academy was made and communicated to the trustees, at a meeting held October 27, by James Smith, Esq., of Philadelphia, which is copied here, as expressing, in excellent taste and appropriate language, the views of the munificent donor, in bestowing his bounty upon the institution.

"PHILADELPHIA, 12th October, 1852.

"To the Board of Trustees of Leicester Academy:

"GENTLEMEN: Feeling a deep interest in the cause of education generally, and a particular regard for the welfare and prosperity of the town of Leicester, I am induced to execute a design I have long entertained, of making a donation to the funds of your institution, that it may be better enabled to benefit the many youth of both sexes, who may feel disposed to avail themselves of the privileges it affords for their instruction.

"On the condition that the sum of five thousand dollars shall be subscribed by others, previous to the first day of January next, I propose to convey to you a sum which shall, at that time, amount to *ten thousand dollars*, in securities.

"That it may be made as beneficial as possible, and feeling entire confidence in your board, that it will be so used, I am not disposed to encumber the expenditure of this money with many restrictions.

"Believing, however, that the academy is now located in as good a place as it can be, for an institution of the kind, I wish to make it a condition of the

donation that the amount so given shall be expended only in the town of Leicester. And in case of the removal of the academy from that place, I direct that the amount remaining unexpended of this fund, shall be appropriated, in conjunction with the "Waters Fund," so called, under the direction of the trustees who may then be residents of the town of Leicester, for the purpose of supporting a public school or academy in said town.

"I would also express a desire that the interest, or income, of a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars of this amount, should be annually appropriated, by the board, for paying the tuition and furnishing books for the use of such pious, indigent young men as may be well recommended, and deemed proper objects of such charity, and are desirous of preparing for the ministry, believing that, if suitable beneficiaries should offer themselves, the appropriation would not only be advantageous to them, but that it would exert a good influence on the institution, and might be the means of advancing the cause of Christianity generally.

"With the hope that your institution may continue, as it has heretofore been, a blessing to the town in which it is located, as well as to the community at large, I remain,

"Very respectfully, yours, etc.,

"JAMES SMITH."

Upon receiving this proposal, the trustees adopted the following preamble and votes :

"WHEREAS a proposal has been made to this board, under date 12th October, instant, by James Smith, Esq., of the city of Philadelphia, to make a donation of the sum of ten thousand dollars to this institution, upon the condition 'that the sum of five thousand dollars shall be subscribed by others, previous to the first day of January next,' and upon certain other conditions expressed therein,

"*Voted*, That the proposal of Mr. Smith be, and hereby is, accepted by the board, upon the conditions therein expressed.

"*Voted*, That, in accepting the proposition of Mr. Smith, this board desire to express to him their grateful appreciation of the spirit of liberality and of Christian philanthropy which has actuated him in making this munificent donation, and their deep sense of the confidence reposed by him in the government of this institution, in thus making them the almoners of his bounty, without restrictions upon their judgment and discretion; a confidence which they hope to justify by an administration of the fund which will accord with his wishes, and redound to the advancement of the best interests of this institution."

The trustees took measures to obtain the requisite sum of five thousand dollars to comply with the condition upon which

the proposal of Mr. Smith was to take effect, and, in their appeal to the friends of the institution, were met by contributions to the amount of \$7130.

The names of these contributors are as follow :

George C. Shattuck, Boston,	\$100	Eli W. Blake, New Haven,	\$20
Myrick & Sugden, Spencer,	20	Byron Sprague, Providence,	5
Dwight Foster, Worcester,	100	John A. Smith, Leicester,	500
Dana H. Fitch, ditto,	25	Joseph A. Denny, ditto,	1000
Emory Washburn, ditto,	100	Josephus Woodcock, ditto,	100
Abijah Bigelow, ditto,	100	Lucius Woodcock, ditto,	200
Stephen Salisbury, ditto,	1000	Baylies Upham, ditto,	100
Thomas Denny, New York,	500	Mary H. Lamb, ditto,	100
Thos. Kinnicutt, Worcester,	50	Danforth Rice, ditto,	75
C. Flint, Spear, N. Y.,	100	Joshua Murdock, Jr., ditto,	100
Roswell Sprague, New York,	100	Robert Watson, ditto,	10
J. Wiley Edmunds, Newton,	500	Elizabeth Sargent, ditto,	100
Daniel Denny, Dorchester,	100	Leander Warren, ditto,	25
F. A. Jones, Boston,	25	Jonas L. Warren, ditto,	10
William C. Peters, ditto,	10	Reuben S. Denny, ditto,	100
Ichabod Washburn, Worcester,	500	A. C. Denison, ditto,	25
Alexander De Witt, Oxford,	100	John Nelson, ditto,	25
William W. Stone, New York,	100	Oliver Smith, ditto,	20
Charles C. Burr, Boston,	100	Abigail Sargent, ditto,	25
Edward B. Westley, New York,	100	J. Sargent Smith, ditto,	20
Samuel Appleton, Boston,	100	Alonzo White, ditto,	100
John Brooks, Princeton,	50	Joseph Whittemore, ditto,	10
Anthony Chase, Worcester,	50	Henry A. Denny, ditto,	100
Robert Earle, New York,	100	Jesse D. Dana, ditto,	10
George Chandler, Worcester,	20	Nathan Craige, ditto,	40
William A. Smith, Worcester,	10	Lucretia Denny, ditto,	100
Sewall B. Bond, Boston,	5	A. H. Washburn, ditto,	50
Daniel Harwood, ditto,	5	Samuel Hurd, ditto,	25
Dexter S. King, ditto,	5	Samuel L. Hodges, ditto,	50
B. R. Keith, ditto,	10	Total,	\$7,130

In compliance with the suggestion of Mr. Smith, the trustees, at their meeting, August 9th, 1854, voted to appropriate the income of \$2,000 from his donation to defray the tuition of six students in the academy, who may be preparing for college within the spirit and intention of the terms of said donation, and a standing committee of the trustees was

appointed to determine the claims of any applicant for such allowance.

A statement of the condition of the funds was made by a committee of the trustees, in May, 1854, by which, after defraying the expenses incurred in the alterations and improvements of the building before spoken of, it appears that the amount of the

Waters Fund was	.	.	.	\$9,100.00
Waldo Fund,	.	.	.	6,000.00
Smith Fund, .	.	.	.	10,000.00
And the General Fund, .	.	.	.	2,228.57
<hr/>				
Making a total of	.	.	.	\$27,329.53

Between that time and May, 1855, expenditures were incurred for desks and other extraordinary charges as well as ordinary, which reduced the general fund to \$1141.05 leaving the other funds unimpaired.

Such is, in substance, the condition of the funds of the institution at the time to which this report relates.

The trustees, in August, 1853, specially appropriated the sum given by Mr. Smith as a permanent fund, under the name of the "Smith Fund," which, with the Waters and Waldo Funds, constitute a total of \$25,100, the income of which is subject to be expended for the purposes of the institution.

CHAPTER IV.

PERSONAL NOTICES OF THE TRUSTEES.

IN the petition for an act of incorporation, the names of the persons to be constituted its trustees were given. But, for some reason, other names were substituted for a portion of these in the act.

Among them were Caleb Amidown, William Stearns, Samuel Curtis, Asa Sprague, and Nehemiah Williams.

CALEB AMIDOWN was of Charlton, and has been noticed in another connection as one of the benefactors of the institution.

WILLIAM STEARNS was of Worcester, and a lawyer. He was born in Lunenburg, and was graduated at Cambridge in 1770. He studied divinity, and preached awhile, but was never settled. After studying law, he was admitted to practice in 1776, and established himself in Worcester. He died in 1784, which will account for his name being omitted in the list of trustees.

He is said to have possessed good sense, respectable learning, lively wit, and much kindness of feeling.

SAMUEL CURTIS also belonged to Worcester, and was a highly respectable and influential man, especially during and previous to the revolution. He lived in that part of the town, embraced within the lines of the town of Ward, afterwards Auburn, and was an independent and intelligent farmer.

ASA SPRAGUE was of Spencer, and has already been mentioned. For some reason his connection with the ownership of the academy estate was early terminated, and, probably from the same cause, his name was omitted in the act creating the trustees.

REV. NEHEMIAH WILLIAMS was a clergyman of Brimfield.

He was the son of the Rev. Chester Williams, of Hadley, and was graduated at Harvard in 1769. He was ordained in 1775, and died November 26th, 1796. He is spoken of as a pious, devoted minister, and the author of a volume of sermons, published after his death.

The Board of Trustees, as constituted by the act of incorporation, were :

Colonel Ebenezer Crafts, who held office till	.	.	.	1792
Colonel Jacob Davis,	"	"	.	1786
Hon. Moses Gill,	"	"	.	1800
Hon. Samuel Baker,	"	"	.	1795
Hon. Levi Lincoln,	"	"	.	1802
Hon. Seth Washburn,	"	"	.	1794
Col. Rufus Putnam,	"	"	.	1790
Hon. Joseph Allen,	"	"	.	1819
Rev. Thaddeus Maccarty,	"	"	.	1784
Rev. Joseph Sumner,	"	"	.	1818
Rev. Joshua Paine,	"	"	.	1800
Rev. Benjamin Conklin,	"	"	.	1798
Rev. Archibald Campbell,	"	"	.	1795
Rev. Joseph Pope,	"	"	.	1816
Hon. Timothy Danielson,	"	"	.	1786

They were succeeded by the following, viz.:

1784, July 4,	Rev. Daniel Grosvenor, who held office till	.	.	1815
1786, Nov.	Jonas Howe, Esq.,	"	"	1813
" "	Capt. Thomas Newhall,	"	"	1814
1791, May 19,	Hon. Dwight Foster,	"	"	1818
1792, Oct. 2,	Hon. Timothy Newell,	"	"	1797
1794, July 7,	Col. Thomas Denny,	"	"	1815
1795, July 9,	Rev. Nathan Fiske,	"	"	1800
1797, July,	Eleazer James, Esq.,	"	"	1814
" July,	Hon. Elijah Brigham,	"	"	1816
1798, July,	Rev. Zephaniah S. Moore,	"	"	1812
1800, July 3,	Rev. Ephraim Ward,	"	"	1815
" "	Rev. Aaron Bancroft,	"	"	1831
" "	Hon. William Stedman,	"	"	1817
1802, July,	Hon. Nathaniel Paine,	"	"	1812
1812, August,	Rev. John Nelson,	"	"	.
" Nov.	Hon. Benjamin Heywood,	"	"	1817

1813, August,	Hon. Aaron Tufts,	who held office till . .	1833
1814, "	Samuel M. Burnside,	" "	1850
1815, "	Rev. Nathaniel Thayer,	" "	1826
" "	Rev. Micah Stone,	" "	1836
" "	Dr. Austin Flint,	" "	1831
" "	Hon. Nath'l P. Denny,	" "	1845
1816, "	Hon. Levi Lincoln,	" "	1834
" "	Rev. Edwards Whipple,	" "	1822
1817, "	Hon. Daniel Waldo,	" "	1834
" Nov.	Hon. Benjamin Adams, (declined.)		
1818, "	Hon. Bezaleel Taft, Jr.,	" "	1829
" "	Hon. Salem Towne, Jr.,	" "	1826
1819, August,	Rev. Josiah Clark,	" "	1845
" Nov. 11,	Hon. Abijah Bigelow,	" "	1853
1823, August,	Rev. Samuel Clark,	" "	1837
1826, May 24,	Hon. Samuel Mixter,	" "	1845
1827, " 23,	Rev. Horatio Barwell,	" "	1835
1830, " 19,	Hon. George Davis,	" "	1851
1831, Aug. 24,	Rev. George Allen,	" "	1852
" Nov. 10,	Hon. Wm. B. Bannister,	" "	1833
1833, Aug. 21,	Hon. Alfred D. Foster,	" "	1849
" Dec. 25,	James Smith, Esq.,	" "	1844
1834, Aug. 20,	Hon. James Allen,	" "	1852
" "	Joseph A. Denny, Esq.		
1835, " 19,	Rev. Levi Packard.		
1836, " 17,	Rev. Horatio Bardwell, (2d time.)		
1837, " 9,	Rev. William P. Paine.		
1845, May 14,	Hon. Emory Washburn.		
1846, "	Rev. Amos Bullard.	" "	1851
1847, Aug. 10,	John Sargent, Esq.	" "	1850
" "	Hon. Stephen Salisbury,		
1850, May 15,	Hon. Thomas Kinnicutt.		
" "	Henry A. Denny, Esq.		
1851, Aug. 13,	Rev. Andrew C. Dennison.		
" "	Hon. Ebenezer Torrey.		
" "	Hon. William Hyde, (declined.)		
1852, Aug. 1,	Thomas Denny, Esq.		
" Oct. 27,	Hon. Waldo Flint, (declined.)		
1853, May 11,	Rev. Alonzo Hill, D. D.		
1854, Aug. 9,	Samuel A. Hitchcock, Esq., (declined.)		
1855, May 6,	Ichabod Washburn, Esq.		

The Presidents of the Corporation have been as follows :

Hon. Moses Gill,	. .	from April, 1784, till 1800
Hon. Levi Lincoln,	. .	" Oct. 1800, " 1802
Rev. Joseph Sumner,	. .	" July, 1802, " 1818
Rev. Aaron Bancroft,	. .	" Dec. 1818, " 1831
Hon. Levi Lincoln, Jr.,	. .	" May, 1831, " 1834
Rev. John Nelson,	. .	" May, 1834.

The Vice Presidents have been as follows :

Rev. Benjamin Conklin,	. .	from April, 1784, to 1798
Rev. Nathan Fiske,	. .	" July 5, 1798, to 1800
Rev. Joseph Sumner,	. .	" Oct. 1800, to 1802
Hon. Dwight Foster,	. .	" July, 1802, to 1818
Hon. Levi Lincoln, Jr.,	. .	" Dec. 18, 1818, to 1831
Rev. Micah Stone,	. .	" May 18, 1831, to 1836
Samuel M. Burnside, Esq.,	. .	" Aug. 17, 1836, to 1850
Hon. Emory Washburn,	. .	" May 14, 1850.

SECRETARIES.

Rev. Joseph Pope,	. .	from April 7, 1784, to 1800
Rev. Zephaniah S. Moore,	. .	" July 3, 1800, to 1812
Rev. John Nelson,	. .	" Nov. 1812, to 1834
Luther Wright, Esq.,	. .	" May 21, 1834, to 1835
Joseph A. Denny, Esq.,	. .	" Aug. 19, 1835, to 1853
Rev. Andrew C. Dennison,	. .	" May 11, 1853.

TREASURERS.

Hon. Joseph Allen,	. .	from April 7, 1784, to 1819
Hon. Levi Lincoln, Jr.	. .	" Nov. 11, 1819, to 1820
Hon. Abijah Bigelow,	. .	" Aug. 23, 1820, to 1853
Joseph A. Denny, Esq.	. .	" May 11, 1853.

COL. EBENEZER CRAFTS very properly holds the first place in our notices of the several trustees of this institution. And, in respect to him, as well as to others of that number, my regret is, that I am, of necessity, obliged to be so brief and unsatisfactory. His was a character that only required to be known to be respected, and the better known the more it commands respect.

He was born in Pomfret, Conn., September 3d, 1740, and

was graduated at Yale College, 1759. Soon after this, he engaged in mercantile business in his native town. At the age of twenty-two he married Mehitable Chandler, and, soon after, removed to Sturbridge, where he continued to pursue the same business in which he had been engaged, and, by attention and assiduity, acquired thereby a large estate.

At the commencement of hostilities, he held the command of a company of cavalry, which he had raised and organized, and joined the army with it at Cambridge, in 1775. He remained in the service till the British troops evacuated Boston, when he returned to Sturbridge, and was soon after elected the colonel of a regiment of cavalry, which office he held till his removal from the county. At the time of the insurrection, known as the "Shay's Rebellion," he marched, with a body of one hundred men under Gen. Lincoln, in the winter of 1786-7, into the western counties, where he rendered prompt and essential service in suppressing that alarming, but ill-judged outbreak.

With the enlarged and patriotic views of Colonel Crafts, the importance of educating the rising generation early attracted his attention. The people were about to assume the solemn trust of self-government, and, to do this with success, they should be able to understand and appreciate the wants and duties of a free people.

The condition of the common schools was depressed; the number of public institutions for education was few; and the idea of establishing such an institution in this county occupied his thoughts for some time before any measures were taken to accomplish it.

He, at first, conceived the plan of founding an academy in the pleasant village where he resided. But the opportunity that presented, as has been already stated, for procuring a suitable building in Leicester, and the coöperation of Colonel Davis in the scheme, induced him to direct his efforts to its establishment in that place, with the zeal and success which I have already had occasion to notice.

By his efforts in this, and other benevolent enterprises, and that general revulsion of business, which, after the close of the war, proved so disastrous to New England, he became so much embarrassed in his affairs, that he was induced to sell his estates here, and remove to Vermont, where he, in company with Gen. Newhall, of Sturbridge, had purchased a township of land, a few years previous.

This took place in the winter of 1790-1, and the town, out of respect to its founder, took the name of Craftsbury. In 1792, he resigned his place as a trustee of the academy, up to which time he cherished and promoted its interests, and shared in its early struggles, against the same difficulties which were embarrassing his own affairs.

In 1786, Colonel Crafts was honored with the degree of A. M. from Harvard University.

It is not easy for the present generation to understand, how new and unbroken was the wilderness into which Colonel Crafts removed with his family. To the generation that were upon the stage a half century ago, it was familiarly known as the "new State," and, towards it, was the foot of the emigrant from the older counties in Massachusetts directed till that time.

Scarce a town in that region, that had not more or less of its early settlers from the county of Worcester, and Colonel Crafts had already been preceded by Colonel Davis at the time of his removal.*

At that time, there was no road opened for more than twenty miles from Craftsbury, and, it being winter, the females of his family were drawn, that distance, upon hand-sleds over the snow.

Here he gathered around him a number of excellent families from Sturbridge and neighboring towns, and a little

* The recency of the settlement of that part of Vermont cannot be more sensibly exhibited than from a letter now lying before me, in relation to Colonel Jacob Davis, from Gen. Perly Davis, dated 1848, who, with Colonel Davis, was among the very earliest settlers of Montpelier.

community was formed, of which he was the acknowledged head.

For twenty years, he stood to it in the relation of a patriarch, a friend and counsellor, whose intelligence all understood, and whose friendship and fidelity all esteemed. His generous hospitality, his energy of character, his calm dignity, and his pure and Christian life, acting, as they did, upon a well-educated, sympathizing community, exerted an influence, and stamped a character upon the people and fortunes of the town he planted, which is plainly perceptible to this day.

In this, he found a ready and efficient auxiliary in his son, whom we have mentioned, and other members of his own immediate kindred.

In this community he resided till his death, May 24th, 1810, at the age of 70, respected and beloved by a constantly widening circle of friends and acquaintance.

The academy are in possession of an excellent likeness of this founder of the institution, from an original portrait formerly in the possession of his son, the late Hon. Samuel C. Crafts, in which it is not difficult to trace indications of that character that distinguished him in the middle and more active period of his life.

He was a man of great energy and firmness, and, though liberal in his views and sentiments, he was inflexible in the maintenance of principle, and, with the opportunities he enjoyed, such a man would not fail to make his influence widely felt.

But it is chiefly of this influence, as connected with this institution, that it is proper to speak in this place.

As class after class of hopeful and educated young men have gone out from this academy to perform their parts in the various departments of life, they have unconsciously been his agents in disseminating principles, upon the maintenance of which depend the permanence and prosperity of the republic itself. And, in paying this brief and humble tribute to

his memory, it is hoped that it may be regarded in the light of meet though tardy justice to one who conceived and carried out the plan of founding the institution.

His successor in the board of trustees was General Timothy Newhall.

JACOB DAVIS was the son of Edward, and was born in Oxford. He was the brother of Ebenezer Davis, of Charlton, and General Jonathan Davis, of Oxford, who were leading and influential men in their day, the latter having been, for many years, a member of the Court of Sessions in this county.

Jacob removed to Charlton, where he occupied and carried on a valuable farm, and, at one time, was possessed of considerable wealth.

This was his condition when he engaged with Colonel Crafts in undertaking to found an academy in Leicester.

He was, at that time, in the prime of life, active and enterprising, and enjoyed the confidence and respect of the community around him.

He entered extensively into the purchase of lands in Vermont, then a new and unsettled region, and was one of the original proprietors of the town of Montpelier.

Soon after the incorporation of the academy, the affairs of Col. Davis became embarrassed, which gave rise to transactions under which his character suffered to that extent, that, in 1786, the trustees of the academy felt compelled to dissolve his connexion with that body.

Of the justice or merits of the measure, there is no occasion to speak here.

In the spring of 1787, he removed to Montpelier, where he settled upon a farm in what is now the village of Montpelier, and erected a log house, into which he removed his family the next winter. His daughter born there, was the first child born in the town. Only one family had preceded him in the settlement of the town.

Here he erected mills on the Onion river, and engaged

extensively in business. Upon the incorporation of that town, he was chosen its first representative in the legislature of Vermont.

His life in Vermont was somewhat chequered as to his success in business. He continued to reside upon the same farm on which he settled, until his death.

His connexion with the academy was too brief to influence its success materially ; but, in tracing its origin and progress, it would be doing great injustice to one of its earliest patrons if we failed to assign to him a prominent place in these notices of those who have had charge of its interests. He was succeeded, in his place of trustee, by Thomas Newhall.

HON. MOSES GILL was, as has already been stated, an original benefactor of the academy, and was elected first president of the board of trustees, upon the organization of that body.

He was born in Charlestown, January 18th, 1734, and was bred to the business of a merchant, upon which he entered at an early age, in Boston.

He was distinguished for integrity and devotion to business, and by his industry and assiduity acquired competence and public confidence.

His wife was a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Prince, the New England annalist, and in her right he came into possession of a large landed estate in Princeton, of which town her father was a large proprietor, and to which he had given his name.

This estate he afterwards acquired in his own right, and if we may judge of his fame and mansion house from the description of them left by Dr. Whitney, in his History of the County of Worcester, the latter must have been magnificent in all its parts ; and the hospitality which he there dispensed was of the most generous and attractive character.

His first wife died without children, in 1771, and he subsequently married a sister of Thomas Boylston, whom he also survived.

He took a decided stand in favor of the colonies, and from 1775 till his death, was constantly in public life.

Although not liberally educated, he was a decided friend and patron of literary men and institutions of learning, and engaged in the benevolent enterprises of the day.

Among other associations with which he was connected, was the ancient and venerable Society for Propagating the Gospel among the Indians, of which he was for many years the president.

He laid the foundation for a public library in Princeton, and, as has already been stated, made a liberal donation of books to Leicester Academy, many of which were remaining till within a few years, and contained some fine editions of the Latin classics.

He commenced public life as a member of the Executive Council of the Province, which answered, in many respects, to the Senate under the present constitution.

This place he held, by annual election, until the organization of the government under the constitution of 1780, when he was again elected to the Executive Council.

He was re-elected to this office annually, with the exception of two years, till 1795, when he was chosen Lieutenant Governor.

As the original design of the constitution was that the Council should be chosen from the body of the Senate, he was annually elected a Senator from the County of Worcester, while he held a seat at the council board.

In addition to the place of councillor, he was, from 1775 to 1794, one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Worcester.

At the first election of representatives to Congress, under the constitution of the United States, he was a candidate for the office, but was defeated by the Hon. Jonathan Grout, of Petersham. From 1795 to 1797, Samuel Adams was annually elected Governor, and Mr. Gill Lieutenant Governor, of the Commonwealth. And upon Mr. Adams retiring from office, Mr. Gill and Judge Increase Sumner were competitors for the office he had held. Mr. Gill was defeated in the

election, but was chosen to the second place. He and Gov. Sumner were re-elected for the years 1798-9, but, Gov. Sumner dying on the 7th of June, of the latter year, Mr. Gill became acting Governor, and continued to perform the functions of the office until his own death, May 20th, 1800.

He died at the age of sixty-six, at his residence in Boston, where his funeral was attended with solemnity and great and imposing effect. His pall-bearers were the Hon. Mr. Jones, Rev. D. Howard, Gen. Lincoln, Hon. Judge Dana, Hon. Mr. Robins, and Hon. Mr. Phillips, and a long procession of State and United States officers and citizens followed his remains to the place of burial.

An extract from an obituary notice of Gov. Gill, in one of the papers of the day, indicates the estimation in which he was held :

“If patriotism has a claim to gratitude from the nation, the memory of Mr. Gill will be embalmed. If industry, prudence, and integrity and real goodness of heart, ever demand respect from the public, his tomb will be adorned.”

He died without children, but he left the whole community benefited by his having lived and having devoted his energies in educating and elevating the generation in which he acted. He continued to be a member of the board of trustees, and its president, until his death, and was succeeded, in one office, by Hon. William Stedman, and, in the other, by Hon. Levi Lincoln.

HON. SAMUEL BAKER belonged to Berlin, and was named as one of the original board of trustees of the academy.

He was a cotemporary with Gov. Gill, in public life, though within a more limited sphere.

He was one of that class of men, so numerous in his day, whose character was developed by the circumstances by which he was surrounded, rather than by any training of schools.

He was a farmer, and, by his own industry, reared and supported a numerous family.

Dr. Whitney, the historian of Worcester county, gravely states, in his account of Berlin, that Judge Baker erected there "a handsome large mansion house of stone."

To the extent of his ability he was devoted to the cause of the colonies, and in 1775 was appointed one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, for the County of Worcester, which office he held till his death, May 13, 1795, at the age of seventy-three.

From 1780 to 1787, he was annually elected to the Senate from this county; and, after the interval of a single year, he was again elected for the year 1788, and, from 1790, was annually elected to the same place till his death, having, the last year, been a member of the executive council.

It will be recollected that, at the time he held these offices, it was not deemed essential, even for a seat on the Supreme Court Bench, that the incumbent should have been educated as a lawyer; and there was no incompatibility between the offices of Senator and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

In speaking of the character of Judge Baker, a cotemporary writer says :

"While we trace him returning from his unremitted exertions in the senate, to the labors of the plough, we recall the manly virtues which distinguished the first Roman republican. In him were united the virtues of the parent, the husband, the patriot, and the Christian."

Judge Baker was an active friend of this institution. As has already been stated, he was chairman of the committee to whom Col. Crafts' original petition was committed, and reported the act of incorporation. He continued, till his death, a member of the corporation, and was succeeded by Judge Brigham.

REV. JOSEPH POPE, when appointed a trustee, was minister of the Congregational Church in Spencer. He was elected secretary of the board at its first organization, April 7th, 1784, and faithfully performed the duties of the office for sixteen years, when he was succeeded by Rev. Dr. Moore.

He continued a member of the board of trustees till 1816, when he resigned, and was succeeded by Rev. Edwards Whipple.

Mr. Pope was born in Brooklyn, Conn., then forming a part of Pomfret, September 28th, 1746, and was graduated at Cambridge in 1770. He was then employed a year in teaching school in Worcester, and had, for a pupil, among others, the late Hon. Timothy Bigelow, many years Speaker of the House of Representatives.

After that, he engaged in the study of theology, and, upon being licensed to preach, supplied the pulpit in Uxbridge for a few months.

He was settled as minister of the Congregational Church and Society in Spencer, July 17, 1773, where he remained till his death, March 8th, 1826.

For the last eight years of his life, he suffered from an attack of paralysis to that degree that he was prevented from performing the functions of his office.

He was a man of good taste and handsome literary acquirements, and a faithful and useful member of the board of trustees.

Upon his resigning the office of secretary, in 1800, the trustees tendered him a vote of thanks "for his long and faithful services" in that office.

He possessed, in an eminent degree, rare prudence and sagacity. His manners were courteous and simple, and won for him the respect and esteem of young and old.

Through a long life he sustained its varied relations with honor and usefulness. A faithful parent, a devoted pastor, and a Christian gentleman.

His wife still survives, having passed the rare climacteric of an hundred years on the 16th December, 1851, with powers of mind and body still vigorous, and retaining the same respect of the present which she won for herself among the generation which she so long ago followed to the grave.

REV. THADDEUS MACCARTY. Though one of the original

trustees, he held the office but a short period, having died on the 28th July, 1784, at the age of sixty-three, only a little more than three months after the organization of the corporation.

He was born in Boston in 1721, and was graduated at Cambridge in 1739. He studied theology, and was settled as a minister at Kingston, in 1742. He remained there three years.

On the 10th June, 1747, he was installed over the Congregational Society in Worcester, which was then the only religious society in the town, where now they number at least a score.

He remained pastor of this church until his death. And a monument to his memory, erected by his people, bears testimony to his amiable virtues, and his faithfulness and zeal in the service of his divine Master. He was the father of Nathaniel Maccarty, Esq., whose legacy to the academy is mentioned in another part of this work.

He was succeeded in his place at the board by the Rev. Daniel Grosvenor.

REV. BENJAMIN CONKLIN was the first vice-president of the board, and held the office from the organization of the corporation till his death.

He was born in Southhold, L. I., in 1733, and was graduated at Princeton College, New Jersey.

He succeeded Rev. Mr. Roberts as minister of the then only church and society in Leicester, in November, 1763. Here he married the widow of Dr. Pliny Lawton, of that town. He remained the pastor of this church till June 30th, 1794, when the state of his health so far incapacitated him from performing his duties in that office, that he was dismissed from it by his own consent.

The disease with which he was afflicted caused him great suffering, from which he was only relieved by death, which took place January 30th, 1798, at the age of sixty-five.

Mr. Conklin was not a brilliant preacher, but was distinguished for his sagacity and energy as a man. During the

struggle of the revolution, and the subsequent troubles known as "Shay's War," he took bold and decided ground in favor of liberty and law, and more than once jeopardized his personal safety by the fearless manner in which he maintained his opinions. In this way, he exerted much influence in the community around him, in which he found many kindred spirits; for in no part of the State were there found truer men than within the circle within which he moved.

Although I have no record of the fact, I have reason to suppose that he, more than once, attended the troops which were called into service from Leicester during the revolution as chaplain of the regiment to which he belonged.

Such a man could hardly fail to render efficient aid to an institution like the academy, in its early stages, and, as one of its trustees, his services were highly valuable. It passed through its darkest period while he was connected with it, and much is doubtless due to his exertions as a trustee and a citizen of the town, that it survived that crisis.

He was succeeded, as minister and trustee of the academy, by the Rev. Mr. Moore.

HON. LEVI LINCOLN was a member of the first board, and held the office of trustee till 1802, when he was succeeded by the Hon. Nathaniel Paine.

Upon the death of Gov. Gill, he was elected President of the board, and held the office till he resigned the trust altogether, and was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. Sumner.

The life and history of Gov. Lincoln was so widely and intimately associated with the history, not only of the academy but of the State and General Governments, that it would extend these sketches altogether beyond their contemplated length, if anything like a complete account were attempted.

He was born in Hingham, May 5th, 1749, and served an apprenticeship as a blacksmith. Such was his desire, however, to obtain an education, that, after this, he fitted himself to enter Harvard College, and was graduated in 1770.

He studied law, and entered upon the practice, in Worcester, where he rose to the first rank in his profession.

Among the offices which he held at different times, was that of Clerk of the Courts, and Judge of Probate. In 1781, he declined election to the Continental Congress ; but, in 1800, was chosen to represent this district in the Congress of the United States.

The following year, he was appointed, by President Jefferson, with whom he was on terms of intimate relation, Attorney General of the United States, and held the office about four years.

In the years 1807 and '8, he was elected Lieut. Governor of the Commonwealth ; and, Governor Sullivan having died in December of the latter year, he performed the duties of Chief Magistrate till the following May.

Upon the decease of Judge Cushing, of the United States Court, Governor Lincoln was appointed to a seat on that bench in 1811, but declined the place on account of a weakness of sight, which compelled him to withdraw from public life.

From that time, till his death, April 14th, 1820, at the age of seventy-one, he lived in honorable and dignified retirement, upon his estate, in the northerly part of what was then the village of Worcester.

He was the last who held the rank and title of Barrister at Law in Worcester County, and he has the honor of having successfully carried through the cause of a negro who had been a slave before the adoption of the constitution, and claimed, by virtue of it, to be emancipated from the control of his master. The cause was determined in 1783, and settled the question in favor of liberty.

The last years of Governor Lincoln's life were devoted to science and literature, and the pursuits of agriculture, for all which he had a decided taste and fondness.

He was one of the original members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was the first President of the Worcester County Agricultural Society.

If, in the angry discussions which were prompted by

political and partisan feeling, remarks of a severe and censorious character were indulged in, towards the subject of this notice, he lived to see them forgotten, or remembered only as the short-lived but bitter fruits of that party spirit which has so often agitated this community.

His private character was above reproach, and the memory of his public life is preserved in the annals of our State and National Governments.

His son, of the same name, who well sustained, if he did not add to, the reputation of the father, at a subsequent period, lent his aid and influence to the academy, as the father had done in its infancy.

HON. SETH WASHBURN was also of the original board of trustees, and a strong and active friend of the institution from the first. Being a member of the Senate at the time, he was employed by Colonel Crafts to present his petition for its incorporation, and lent his aid to the measure.

He continued a member of the board till his death, in 1794, when he was succeeded by Colonel Thomas Denny.

He was born at Bridgewater, in 1723, and, at an early age, removed to Middletown, Conn. From there he removed, with his father, to Leicester, in 1750, where he married and established himself in his trade as a blacksmith.

Though his education must have been very defective, he seems to have had the power of convincing and controlling the minds of others, to a more than ordinary extent. He early took an active part in the measures of the revolution, and was in command of a company of minute-men, with whom he marched, on the afternoon of the 19th April, 1775, for Cambridge, upon hearing of the march of the British troops for Concord.

Upon the organization of the troops at Cambridge, he had the command of a company in the regiment of Colonel Ward, and took an active part in the battle of Bunker Hill.

He continued in the service for the term of eight months, when, the period of the enlistment of his men having expired,

he returned to Leicester, where he was engaged in various public duties connected with the war, till the return of peace.

He never, in fact, resumed his trade after leaving it in April, '75. After that period, he occupied a farm, and was, much of his time, engaged in public life.

He often represented Leicester in the General Court, and, for several years, was a member of the Senate, from the county of Worcester.

In the management of the fiscal and economical concerns of the academy, Colonel Washburn appears from the records to have taken a leading and active part, and the influence which he was able to command in the community was employed in promoting its success.

He died at the age of seventy, leaving a large family of children; none of whom, or their descendants, now remain in the town, though several of these have been educated at the academy which their ancestor helped to found.*

GEN. RUFUS PUTNAM, also of the first board of trustees, belonged to Rutland. He was born in Sutton, in 1738, and was bred to the trade of a millwright. He at first settled in Brookfield.

He served with great honor and distinction as an officer in the revolutionary army, and was among the most distinguished engineers in the army. As such, he is highly spoken of by General Washington, in letters to the President of the Continental Congress. He possessed much of the confidence of the commander-in-chief.

At the commencement of the war, he had the command of a regiment, but, in January, '83, was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-general.

In 1782, the estates of Colonel Murray, a noted tory, belonging to Rutland, having been confiscated by the government, were sold, and one of his farms were purchased by Colonel Putnam, to which he removed the same year.

* Among these, I may mention the Hon. Reuben, of Ludlow, Vermont, once a Judge of the Court of that county; Hon. Ebenezer D., a Judge in Alabama, in which State he died; and Dr. Seth, a Physician, who died in Greenfield, grandsons of Colonel Seth.

He was an early and active associate of the Ohio Company, formed for the purposes of settling that, then, unexplored region, and in 1789 removed to Marietta, of which city he was the founder.

During his residence in Rutland, he shared freely in the duties and honors of the municipal offices of the town, having served as constable, collector of taxes, selectman, and representative of the town in the General Court.

Upon the breaking out of the Indian war, in 1791, he was again appointed to the command of a brigade of troops under Gen. Wayne, in the army of the United States ; and his plan for the campaign is spoken of in terms of decided approbation in a letter from Gen. Washington to Gen. Knox, then Secretary of War, in August, 1792.

The formation and accomplishment of the scheme of settling Ohio, demanded much time and great energy and perseverance on the part of Gen. Putnam. It was begun in 1786, but the first company of emigrants did not leave New England till the spring of 1788, when, with forty others, he began the settlement of Marietta. His selection of this spot has been severely criticized, as the advantages of other localities, which he might have chosen, have been developed. But it should be remembered that the whole region was then a wilderness, and he was moreover misled as to the quality of the land, and the eligibility of the site, by the information he acquired from others who had explored the country.

He removed his family; consisting of his wife and eight children, one of them a married daughter, in 1789, and from that period his interests became identified with those of that thriving and prosperous Commonwealth.

And such was its rapidity of growth, that he lived to see seven hundred thousand people occupy a region which he entered as a pioneer, after having acquired a distinguished reputation by a life of no inconsiderable length in his native State.

In 1789, he was appointed Judge of the Superior Court of

the North-west Territory, and, in 1795, was made Surveyor-General of that Territory.

He was a member of the committee that formed the constitution of the State of Ohio ; and lived to be the last surviving general officer, with the exception of La Fayette, of the revolution.

He died at the age of eighty-six, May 1st, 1824.

He was, as has been stated, a liberal benefactor to the academy ; and, until his resignation of his place on the board of trustees, upon his removal to Ohio, was an active promoter of its interests. He was succeeded in that office by the Hon. Dwight Foster.

If it was properly within the sphere of this report, it would be pleasant to trace the indirect influence which has been exerted upon the community founded by Gen. Putnam, now one of the principal States of the Union, by an institution which he helped to found here in the interior of Massachusetts. Many of the men whose influence has been felt in the affairs of that State, received their early education at this academy, and thus it may be said of Gen. Putnam, as of other good men, that his works have followed him.

HON. JOSEPH ALLEN, one of the original board of trustees, belonged to Worcester. He was born in Boston, September 2d, 1749, his mother being a sister of Gov. Samuel Adams.

He was bred to the business of a merchant, and, in 1771, removed to Leicester, where he erected a dwelling-house upon the spot afterwards occupied by the academy, and engaged in trade in a store standing near it.

He was a fine English and classical scholar, and many of the spirited resolutions that gave so much interest to the town of Leicester, in the early part of the revolutionary struggle, may be traced to the pen of Mr. Allen.

He was, from the first, a bold, resolute, and determined Whig, and found in Mr. Conklin, the Henshaws, Dennys, and other leading spirits of that town, a ready and hearty coöperation. If there were any of a different sentiment

there, they were too inconsiderable in number or influence to mar essentially the harmony or efficiency of the action of these patriots.

I know none of the best productions of the day which excel the instructions and resolutions which were drawn by Mr. Allen, upon the topics which were then agitating the public mind.

In 1776, he removed to Worcester, and was made Clerk of the Courts of the County, which office he filled with great fidelity and acceptance until 1810.

He was a member of the United States Congress during one term, 1809-10, but declined reëlection.

From 1815 to 1818, he was a member of the Executive Council, and was twice an elector of President.

In the performance of all his duties, Mr. Allen was distinguished for promptness, accuracy, and uncompromising probity.

His connection with the academy was as honorable to himself as it was useful to the institution.

Originally a donor to its funds, upon its organization he was made its first treasurer, and continued to hold and manage its funds till his resignation of the place of trustee in 1819.

This, of course, embraced the dark period of its early struggles, when its finances were deranged, and the depreciation of the securities in which its funds were invested, had well-nigh rendered the institution bankrupt.

Under circumstances like these, a spirit less resolute would have shrunk from the irksome task of trying to sustain its failing credit.

He lived to see its affairs more prosperous, and upon retiring from the place, had the satisfaction of knowing that his services had been appreciated. The trustees, on that occasion, adopted a unanimous vote,

"That the faithful, valuable, and continued attention and services, from the establishment of this institution to the present time, of the Hon. Joseph

Allen, in the office of trustee, and in the gratuitous discharge of the arduous and responsible duties of treasurer, by which the funds, and all accruing and resulting interest, have been remarkably secured without loss or diminution to the most inconsiderable amount, and by whose care and vigilance the funds are now received at his hands unimpaired in value or security, deserve the high regard and grateful acknowledgments of the corporation of this institution.

“Unanimously Resolved, That the above expression of sentiments of the board, on this subject, be entered on the records, with an assurance of the personal respect of the members of this board, and their great regret at his resignation.”

This was but an expression of one portion of the community of the respect which all felt, and which he continued to hold in the public mind as long as he lived.

He died at the age of seventy-eight, September 2d, 1827, retaining to the last the taste of a scholar, and the urbanity of a gentleman.

Two of his sons were in part educated at the academy, the Hon. Charles Allen and the Rev. George Allen, both of Worcester, the latter of whom, as will hereafter appear, was for many years a trustee of the institution.

Mr. Allen was succeeded in his office of treasurer by the Hon. Levi Lincoln, Jr., and as trustee by the Hon. Abijah Bigelow.

REV. JOSEPH SUMNER, D.D., was of the original board of trustees, and belonged to Shrewsbury. In 1800, he succeeded Dr. Fiske, as vice president of the board; and in 1802 was elected president, upon the resignation of Gov. Lincoln.

He held the latter office till 1818, when he resigned his place at the board.

He was born in Pomfret, Conn., in 1739, and in 1762 settled over the Congregational Church and Society in Shrewsbury. This relation he held, without any colleague, until 1820; and from that time till his death, in 1824, retained it in connection with a colleague, so that he held the place of pastor for the almost unprecedented period of sixty-three years.

He was graduated at Yale College, in 1759, and in 1814 received the honorary degree of D. D. from Harvard and the College of South Carolina.

As illustrative of his fidelity, as well as physical ability, in the duties of his office, it is said that he was absent from his pulpit, from sickness or absence from town, only seven Sabbaths in fifty-seven years, and never on the occasion of communion service, for the period of sixty-two years.

He belonged to that class of clergymen in New England who took a deep interest in the cause of the colonies, and spared no occasion which offered for encouraging his people to bear their share in the burdens of the war. And it is difficult to measure, at this day, the extent of that influence which was thus exerted. Others fought the battles, and won the renown and glory of achieving the American independence, but it is not too much to say that, had it not been for the sacred fire which was kept alive upon the altars of the churches and homes of New England, by its pastors and the wives and mothers of those who were called into the field, that struggle would have died away ingloriously.

Dr. Sumner was an ardent and consistent friend of the cause of education, and devoted himself to encourage the schools of his own town, as well as the academy with which he was connected.

I have already spoken of his public services on more than one occasion in connection with the academy. And I only need add that he was ever ready and faithful in the performance of his duties towards the institution.

There was a dignity and grace in the manner in which these were performed which could not fail to impress every one with favor and respect. That venerable air, made more striking by the immense white wig which he wore and was once common to the elderly clergymen of New England, marked him at once as belonging to an age that had well-nigh passed away.

The estimation in which his services were held by his

associates on the board of trustees was evinced by their votes on the occasion of his resigning the office of president. They reciprocated the grateful recollection of his intercourse with them. They tendered him their thanks for his faithful services as their president, devoutly wished him, under the infirmities of age, the consolation of that religion which he had so long preached to others, and prayed that the labors of the present life might be succeeded by a crown of immortality.

His funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Bancroft, his successor in the presidency of the board of trustees, and was a fit tribute to his worth.

He was succeeded by the Rev. Josiah Clark in his place as trustee.

One of his sons was successively preceptor of the English department, and principal of the academy, and will be noticed in another part of this report.

REV. JOSHUA PAINE, of Sturbridge, was of the original clerical members of the board. He was five years the senior of Dr. Sumner, was born in the same town, graduated the same year, at the same college. Besides this, he received a call to settle in Shrewsbury, before an invitation was given to Dr. Sumner, which call he declined.

In 1761, he succeeded the Rev. Caleb Rice, as minister of the Congregational Society in Sturbridge, and held that office until his death, December 28th, 1799, at the age of sixty-five years.

He was a respectable preacher, and a faithful pastor, beloved and esteemed by his people for his many amiable and excellent qualities.

His ministerial life covered the eventful period of the American war, the formation of the State and United States constitutions, and the insurrection under Shays.

In all these events, he took a deep interest, and he voluntarily gave up a portion of his salary to enable his parishioners to meet their share of the burden of the war, and, on one

occasion, contributed a barrel of gunpowder from his own resources to aid on the struggle.

To men of this day, the secret is incomprehensible how the clergymen of the last century were able, from their limited salaries, to live so respectably, accomplish so much, and be, in fact, so independent. Though not a worldly man, and though devoted to his profession, Mr. Paine, upon a salary of \$222, was able to support his family, and educate two of his sons at college, one of whom became a minister, and the other a lawyer.

He was an active friend of education, and was a useful member of the board of trustees of this academy for fifteen years.

There is little in the life of such a man to fill the pages of a biography, and it is by the unconscious influence they exert that they make themselves felt upon their generation. Mr. Paine had his full share of this kind of influence, and the world was better for his having lived.

He was a member of the trustees till his death, and was succeeded by Rev. Dr. Bancroft.

REV. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL was the minister of Charlton, and the son of the Rev. John Campbell, a native of Scotland, who was the first minister of Oxford.

He was graduated at Cambridge, in 1761, and in 1763, was settled over a church and society in Easton, where he remained for twenty years, when he was dismissed from Easton, and settled in Charlton. Here he was regarded as possessed of respectable powers, good attainments, and consistent religious character. But imputations unfavorable to his character having arisen, he was dismissed from his pastoral charge in 1793, and left the Commonwealth. He resigned his place at the board in 1795.

After leaving Charlton, he continued to preach, at first in Cornish, N. H., then in Putney, Vermont, and afterwards, in 1801, removed to Stockbridge, Vermont, though he never was settled as a minister.

He outlived the reproach under which he was laboring when he left Charlton, but misfortunes clouded his latter days, and, poor and blind, he was left dependent upon public charity for his support, for several years before his death. He died in Stockbridge, in July, 1818, at the age of eighty-two, leaving one daughter, now living in that town.*

The Rev Dr. Fisk succeeded him as a trustee of the academy.

HON. TIMOTHY DANIELSON, of Brimfield, completes the list of, what it is no exaggeration to call, the remarkable men who constituted the first Board of Trustees of Leicester Academy.

Many of these would have been strong and prominent men in any community, and under any ordinary circumstances. But most of them had peculiar means of developing and calling into exercise the qualities of their minds and character.

Of this class was Gen. Danielson.

He was born in Brimfield, and was graduated at Yale College, in 1756.

I do not find that he studied any profession, but he early came into public life, and acted a prominent part in the scenes which rendered the period from his leaving college till his death, so memorable in our history.

He was chairman of the convention of Hampshire County, in 1774, and a member of the three Provincial Congresses, that were convened in Massachusetts, in 1774 and '5, in which he held a commanding rank among the distinguished men of whom they were composed.

Among other delicate and responsible duties, delegated to him by that congress, was that of repairing to Connecticut in April, 1775, to solicit the coöperation of that colony with Massachusetts in raising an army.

Gen. James Warren, at the same time, was chosen a delegate to visit Rhode Island, and Hon. Elbridge Gerry to visit New Hampshire, for the same purpose.

* I am indebted to Merrick Gay, Esq., of Stockbridge, for information as to the time of Mr. Campbell's death.

The same year, he was commissioned by Congress to command one of the regiments raised by this colony for the service.

Upon the organization of the courts, after the adoption of the constitution, he was made Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, for the County of Hampshire.

In person, he was large and finely formed. His bearing was that of a man fitted to command, and he was always distinguished for firmness and energy of character.

For many years he was Major General of the troops in the County of Hampshire, when that office was deemed one of honor and influence.

In whatever position he was placed, he exerted a commanding influence in advancing and improving society around him.

He was, in short, one of that class of bold and able men, who were made for or by the circumstances in which they were placed, to carry forward the war of the revolution, and settle and establish a wise form of civil government, after the struggle was over. And, as such, he left a decided and lasting mark upon the community in which he acted.

He died at the age of fifty-eight, leaving two sons ; and his widow became the wife of the distinguished General Eaton, whose services, in the war with Tripoli, in 1805, commanded such general admiration.

The connection of General Danielson with this academy was but brief, and his health, during that time, was such, that he took but little part in the duties of a trustee. He resigned his place in 1786, and died September 19th, 1791. He was succeeded by Jonas Howe, Esq., in the board of trustees.

If, as we trace the names and characters of those who have successively filled the places once occupied by the men of whom I have spoken, we find men less prominent, or less generally known, than these, it should not lead us to conclude that they have therefore been less able and devoted guardians

of the institution. Institutions of the kind have multiplied, and each has, to some extent, attracted a local interest to itself, and called to its aid the men of influence in its neighborhood. Besides, the effect of this and similar institutions, and the improvement in our schools, have done so much to diffuse education through the community, that there is a much less marked distinction between men than there once was. Not that the men of eminent capacity are fewer than they once were, but the masses generally have been brought up more nearly to a level with the leading minds in the Commonwealth.

But, while it may not be in good taste to institute comparisons between those who now constitute the board, and those of a former period, I may with confidence say, while speaking of the past, that the academy has little cause to regard the successors of the first body of her trustees as having failed to sustain the reputation which that board justly possessed.

The first one elected to fill a vacancy at the board, was in the place of the Rev. Mr. Maccarty. This was the

REV. DANIEL GROSVENOR, July 4th, 1785.

He then belonged to Grafton. He was born in Pomfret, Conn., 1749, and was graduated at Yale College in 1769, so that three of the reverend trustees of the academy that were then associated, were natives of the same town, and graduates of the same college.

In 1774, he was settled over the church and society in Grafton, and remained there until 1788, when he was dismissed from his charge, on account of his failing health.

In 1794, having regained his health, he was again settled over the church and society in Paxton, and remained there till 1802, when he was again dismissed.

At a period somewhat subsequent to this, he removed to Petersham, where he resided till his death, July 22d, 1834, at the age of eighty-five. Among the incidents which serve to illustrate his character as a man, when the alarm of the march of the British troops on Lexington reached Grafton,

the company of minute-men which had been raised, and of which Mr. Grosvenor was a member, marched at once for the scene of action, and, shouldering his musket, he as promptly took post in its ranks, and marched with them to Cambridge. It was of such stuff that the revolution was made. And, doubtless, from the camp of that company, there went up, morning and evening, as sincere prayers, and from as devout hearts, as were ever heard within the walls of a sanctuary. And if this was a reminiscence of '75, instead of a literary institution, I might speak of another of its trustees, who, when leading his company into the fight of the 17th June, called them together, while the balls were heard whistling thickly around them, and, calmly offering up a prayer, as he had often done in their hearing at home, pointed to the place in the line where he proposed to post them, and, at the same time, gave permission to any one then to withdraw from the field. It is hardly necessary to say, that no one availed himself of the permission.

Mr. Grosvenor was a respectable preacher and useful pastor. His health prevented his attaining eminence in his profession.

He resigned his place at the board of trustees in 1815, and was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Stone.

The late Jonathan P. Grosvenor, Esq., of Paxton, and Rev. Cyrus P. Grosvenor, were sons of the subject of this notice.

THOMAS NEWHALL, Esq., of Leicester, succeeded Col. Davis, in November, 1786.

He was a native of Leicester, born 1732. He was an intelligent, independent farmer, and lived upon a farm now owned by Mr. Robert Watson, adjoining the town of Spencer, upon the great post road.

He was, as we have seen, an original contributor to the funds of the academy, and was always a friend of the institution. He was an active and useful member of the board, from his election till his death, in 1814, and illustrated in his life, how useful and honorable may be the career of a man of

respectable natural powers, even though limited to the sphere of private life, who is willing to devote his efforts in advancing the cause of learning and the improvement of his fellow-men.

He was possessed of considerable wealth, and having no children, he made the academy and his native town objects of his bounty. I have mentioned the sums he left by will to the institution; and as generation after generation of the children of that town share in the provision he made for their instruction, in the academy, humble as it was, his name will be retained in grateful remembrance.

He died at the age of eighty-five, and the epitaph upon his tomb-stone, unlike most such compositions, does no more than justice to his character :

“Generous and patriotic through life, at an advanced age he became a liberal benefactor of the inhabitants of this town, and to the literary institution established therein.”

He was succeeded, in the place of trustee, by Dr. Austin Flint.

JONAS HOWE, ESQ., of Rutland, was chosen to succeed Gen. Danielson, in November, 1786.

He was born in that town, November 6th, 1743, and was the son of Moses Howe.

He was a farmer, and a highly respectable and useful citizen. His fellow-citizens manifested their respect for him in electing him to most of the offices, in succession, within their gift. Thus, at different times, he was a selectman, assessor, treasurer, and representative in the General Court, and in 1775 a member of the second Provincial Congress. In all these places he commanded the respect and confidence of the public. He was a deacon of the church, and an active magistrate in the county; and, to quote from an obituary notice of his character, “in all his walks in life manifested a love of virtue, of truth and religion.”

The records of the trustees show that he was an active and useful member of that board. In matters of business, where

good sense and sound judgment were required, his services were often called into exercise.

He died at the age of sixty-nine, in 1812, and was succeeded by Hon. Aaron Tufts.

HON. DWIGHT FOSTER was chosen to fill the place of Gen. Putnam, May 19th, 1791. He belonged to Brookfield.

He was the son of Hon. Jedediah Foster, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, and brother of Hon. Theodore Foster, a Senator in Congress from Rhode Island, from 1790 to 1803.

He was graduated at Brown University, in 1774, at the age of seventeen; and having studied law he commenced the practice of the profession in Providence, but removed to Brookfield in 1779, and was soon largely engaged in business.

In 1792, he was appointed sheriff of the county, and held the office for one year.

In 1793, he was chosen to Congress, and held a seat in that body till 1801.

In 1799, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, and held the office two years.

In 1800, he was elected to the Senate of the United States, for the balance of a term, and held the place till 1803.

In all these various offices, he brought to the performance of their duties great assiduity, diligence and fidelity, and won the confidence and favor of his fellow-citizens.

In his person, he was of a large and commanding figure; his bearing was mild and dignified, and, in his associations with all, he was distinguished for urbanity and amenity of manners. And the various offices of honor and trust which he was successfully called to fill, were evidence of the high estimate in which he was held by the people of the Commonwealth.

He was a useful member of the board of trustees of the academy, and always had a lively interest in its success.

After leaving the bench of the Court of Common Pleas, he resided in retirement, at his seat in Brookfield, till 1818, when, for a single year, he was a member of the Executive Council.

The same year he resigned his place as a trustee, and died April 29th, 1823, at the age of sixty-six.

He was the father of the Hon. Alfred Dwight Foster, who subsequently was a member of the board of trustees, and fully sustained the character and reputation of the father.

Judge Foster was succeeded at the board by Gen. Salem Towne.

HON. TIMOTHY NEWHALL, of Sturbridge, succeeded Col. Crafts, as a trustee, October 2d, 1792.

He was born in Needham, in 1742, and removed early to Sturbridge, where he was, for many years, employed as a mechanic.

He subsequently engaged in trade, which, with agriculture, were afterwards the business of his life.

He had, naturally, a strong and active mind, and, though wholly self-taught, he acquired a store of useful knowledge, which, with good, practical common sense, for which he was distinguished, enabled him to meet the demands which were made upon his services, in various responsible offices, with acceptance and success.

He commanded a company of minute-men, at the commencement of the war of the revolution, but entered the army as brigade major, and rose to the rank of colonel before quitting the service.

During the "Shay's Rebellion," as it was called, he was again called into active service, and proved himself a firm and efficient supporter of the government.

From 1791 to 1794, he was a member of the Senate from the County of Worcester, and in 1807 was a member of the Executive Council.

He resigned his place at the board of trustees in 1797, and died at the age of seventy-six, February 5th, 1819.

General Newhall was a man of no ordinary powers, and his influence was widely felt in the County and the State.

His countenance was noble, his person fine, and his manners and whole bearing dignified and imposing.

He was a most agreeable and entertaining companion, as his memory was stored with the stirring scenes and events of a long and busy life. His sentiments and opinions were always sound and patriotic, and his interest in passing events continued actively alive till the hour of his death.

Though I am indebted to another * for most of the particulars of this brief sketch of Gen Newhall, his memory, as a public man, is a part of the history of the county and of the Commonwealth.

He had a son and seven daughters. The son, a young man of great promise, died young. One of his daughters married Dr. Ephraim Allen, of Salem, N. Y., whom I have had occasion to mention in another part of this report, and another married the Hon. C. J. Savage, of the Supreme Court of New York.

General Newhall was succeeded, as a trustee, by Eleazer James, Esq.

COL. THOMAS DENNY, of Leicester, was elected July 7th, 1794, to fill the place of the Hon. Seth Washburn.

He was a native of Leicester, and was born May 15th, 1757.

His father, Thomas Denny, was one of the most prominent and active patriots in Massachusetts at the commencement of the revolution. He was a brother of Colonel Samuel Denny, who has been mentioned in an early part of this report, the sons of Daniel Denny, who was one of the early settlers of Leicester, and whose sister married the historian and annalist, Dr. Prince.

The father of Colonel Thomas Denny died at the early age of forty-nine, in 1774, while a member of the first Provincial Congress.

Colonel Denny, early in life, engaged in active business with great energy and success, and soon became a prominent and leading citizen of the town.

Upon the resignation of Colonel Crafts, in 1791, of his

* George Davis, Esq.

command of the regiment of cavalry which he had raised in the county, Colonel Denny was elected its lieutenant-colonel, then a place of great honor and respect.

He was, the same year, elected a representative of Leicester in the General Court, and frequently afterwards represented that town.

He was extensively engaged, for many years, in mercantile and manufacturing business, and, at the time of his death, was the wealthiest man in town.

As a resident trustee of the academy, he was a most useful and efficient member of the board. His services were always in demand whenever practical business talents and experience, and sound common sense, combined with energy of character, were required. And no one was more faithful than he in the performance of his duties to the institution.

He died very suddenly, December 5th, 1814, at the age of fifty-seven, in the midst of his usefulness, and to the universal regret of all who knew him.

One of his sons, of the same name, was afterwards preceptor of the English department of the academy, and is now one of its trustees. One of his daughters is the wife of its most distinguished benefactor, and, at one time, one of its trustees, James Smith, Esq.

Colonel Denny was succeeded, at his death, in the board of trustees, by Hon. Nathaniel P. Denny.

REV. NATHAN FISKE, D. D., was elected to the place made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Campbell, July 9th, 1795. He was then minister of Brookfield. He was born in Weston, November 24th, 1733, and was graduated at Cambridge, in 1754, in the same class with Gov. Hancock. In 1758, he was ordained over the third precinct of Brookfield. Here he remained until his death, November 24th, 1799. His death was very sudden, having preached twice on that day, and walked from his house to the church in apparently good health.

He was a fine scholar, and an interesting and impressive

preacher. He was distinguished, as a writer, for the neatness and correctness of his style.

His cotemporaries speak of him in terms of great respect and esteem on account of his fine domestic and social qualities, and the dignity, faithfulness, and conscientiousness with which he performed all the duties of life.

His connection with the academy was brief, but the estimation in which he was held, by his associates, may be inferred, from his being elected to succeed Rev. Mr. Conklin, as vice president of the board, in July, 1798. He received the honorary degree of D. D., from his Alma Mater, in 1792, when such a mark of distinction was more regarded than it has sometimes since been.

The Rev. Ephraim Ward was Dr. Fiske's successor in the board of trustees.

ELEAZER JAMES, ESQ., of Barre, took the place of Gen. Newhall, July, 1797.

He was born at Cohasset, 1754, and was graduated at Cambridge, in 1778.

From 1781 to 1789, he was a tutor in that college. After that, he preached for a while, but was never settled over any parish.

He then gave up the profession of divinity, and studied that of law. Having been admitted to practice, he opened an office in Barre, where, for many years, he pursued his profession with great success. Towards the close of his life, his daughter having married the Hon. Charles Allen, he removed to Worcester, to reside with them, and remained there till his death, April 14th, 1843, at the age of eighty-nine.

Although never distinguished as an advocate, and rarely, if ever, taking a leading part in the management of important causes, he was regarded as a good lawyer, a discreet counsellor, and an agreeable and intelligent gentleman.

In some respects, his history and experience were peculiar, compared with most of his associates at the bar, for he

acquired a handsome estate by his profession, and died in a condition of pecuniary independence.

He remained, for seventeen years, a member of the board of trustees, and lent the institution the benefit of his counsels and his personal influence. He resigned his place in 1814, and was succeeded by Samuel M. Burnside, Esq.

He left three daughters, one of whom married Rev. Dr. Young, late of Boston; another, Rev. Dr. Thompson, of Salem, who received his early education at the academy; and the other, Hon. Mr. Allen, as already mentioned.

Through a long, quiet, and unobtrusive life, he commanded the respect of the public, and enjoyed the esteem of a wide circle of friends; and if his name does not appear among the men in public political life, in his day, it was because his taste and inclination were averse to entering such arena.

ELIJAH BRIGHAM was a native of Northboro', and was graduated at Dartmouth, in 1778. Upon leaving college he commenced the study of divinity; but, after two years, abandoned it, and entered into mercantile business, in Westboro', in connection with his brother-in-law, Breck Parkman, Esq.

He represented that town in the General Court, in 1791, and, in 1795, was elected a Senator for the County of Worcester, and held the office two years.

In 1795, he was appointed a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. In 1803, he was a member of the Executive Council, and in 1810, was elected to Congress. He continued a member of that body until his death, in 1816, April 22d. This took place at Washington, while in attendance upon Congress, at which time he was sixty-five years of age. His death was very sudden, having been occasioned by an attack of croup.

It is hardly necessary, after reciting the various high and responsible offices which Judge Brigham was called to fill, to add, that he was a man of strong native powers of mind, and of high personal character.

He held a seat upon the bench of the Court of Common Pleas, at a period when legal learning was not regarded as an essential requisite for the office.

Engaged as he was, during all this time, in extensive mercantile operations, he must, in his judicial capacity, have depended rather upon his sound judgment and good sense, than upon any knowledge which he had gathered from the books.

He proved himself to be such a man as the circumstances of the time demanded ; and the uniform respect with which he was regarded in the public mind, was evidence that his claims upon the confidence of the community were properly appreciated.

He was chosen to fill the place of Judge Baker at the board of trustees, July, 1797, and was succeeded by Hon. Levi Lincoln, Jr., having held the office till his death.

REV. ZEPHANIAH SWIFT MOORE, D. D., was elected to fill the vacancy at the board, occasioned by the decease of Mr. Conklin, July, 1798.

He was born in Palmer, Mass., and in early life removed with his father to Wilmington, Vt., where he grew up, laboring upon his father's farm, until he was eighteen years of age. He entered Dartmouth College, and was graduated in 1793. He was then employed for a year in teaching the academy at Londonderry, N. H.

After that, he studied theology with the Rev. Dr. Backus, of Somers, Conn., and, on January 10, 1798, was settled over the church and society of Leicester.

He continued in this relation till 1811, when he was appointed to the professorship of languages in Dartmouth College, and removed to Hanover.

He filled this office with great ability and acceptance, till 1815, when he was elected President of Williams College, and removed to Williamstown.

In 1821, he was elected President of Amherst Collegiate Institute, afterwards Amherst College, and removed to

Amherst, where he resided till his death, June 29th, 1823, at the age of fifty-three years.

The character of Dr. Moore has become so well known, from the prominent position he held, and the ability and success with which he performed the duties of these offices, that it is only necessary to speak of him in connection with this and other literary institutions.

He remained one of the trustees till his removal to Hanover, and the institution has great cause to remember his services in its behalf, with gratitude and respect.

Upon the resignation of Mr. Adams as preceptor of the academy, in 1806, Dr. Moore was appointed his successor, and held the place for one year. He did not, however, suspend his connection with the parish during this period.

In the government and management of a body of pupils, whether in an academy or college, Dr. Moore had few equals, and no superior. He combined, to a remarkable degree, with mild, winning and persuasive address, the most unwavering firmness, and consistency of character and purpose.

He was, moreover, extremely sagacious in the knowledge of personal character.

He was an accurate scholar, a clear and profound thinker, and a writer of great neatness and purity of style.

As a pastor and minister, few exerted a more marked influence, or left a stronger feeling of veneration and attachment on the part of the people with whom he was connected.

He married a daughter of the late Thomas Drury, Esq., of Auburn, who still survives, retaining the respect and esteem of her former associates and friends, as well as commanding that of the community in which she has made her home.

REV. EPHRAIM WARD was of Brookfield, (now West Brookfield,) and was elected to fill the vacancy in the board, in place of D. Fiske, in 1800, and remained a member of it till 1815, when he resigned the place.

He was a native of Newton, and was born in 1741, and was graduated at Harvard University, in 1763.

He was settled, as pastor, over the church and society in the then First Parish in Brookfield, October 22d, 1771, and remained in that relation, till his death, February 9th, 1818, at the age of seventy-seven.

During this unusual period of ministerial life, he faithfully and acceptably performed the duties of his office, without any assistant, until about eighteen months before his death, when the Rev. Mr. Phelps became his colleague.

He has left the reputation of having been a plain, practical, and evangelical preacher of the Gospel.

"In private and social life, his amiable and obliging temper, his benevolent and social feelings, courteous manners, and catholic spirit, united with a remarkable degree of forbearance, meekness, and candor, rendered him an agreeable companion and friend, and endeared him to a numerous acquaintance." *

He left several printed sermons, which had been delivered on special occasions.

His name and his amiable virtues are still fresh in the memory of the people to whom he so long ministered in his holy calling.

He was succeeded in the board of trustees by Rev. Dr. Thayer.

REV. AARON BANCROFT, D. D. The life of this long-tried and faithful friend of the institution, remains to be written.

It has been hoped that some one would do justice, as his biographer, to his claims upon the public respect.

The most I can hope to do, is to borrow from Mr. Lincoln's History of Worcester, to which I have been greatly indebted, in preparing this work, for an outline of some of the principal events in his life.

He was born in Reading, November 10th, 1755. He resolved to obtain an education, and, under circumstances of great embarrassment and discouragement, was able to enter Harvard College in 1774.

* Massachusetts Spy, February 13th, 1818.

The events of the revolution following so soon after, he, with the other students, were obliged to abandon the college for a while. But, in 1778, he received his degree, and, soon after, commenced the study of theology, in his native town.

After spending three years in Nova Scotia, he was invited to Worcester, in 1783, to supply the pulpit of the Rev. Mr. Maccarty, during his illness. From that time, till his return to Worcester, in 1784 or '85, he was employed in several different places. But, having been invited to settle over the Second Parish, in that town, he accepted the invitation, and became their pastor, in February, 1786.

The connection, thus formed, ended only with his life. For the last few years of his ministerial labors, he found an able and acceptable assistant in the colleague with whom his duties were divided.

Besides his devotion to his parochial duties, Dr. Bancroft became a successful and popular author. His *Life of Washington* was a popular and widely-circulated work.

Many of his sermons and writings upon theological subjects were published and extensively read. And a sermon, which he preached at the close of the fiftieth year of his ministry, was printed, at the particular desire of his people, and contains many valuable and interesting reminiscences.

Dr. Bancroft was connected with many public benevolent, literary, and scientific associations ; and, in 1810, was honored, by his Alma Mater, with the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

His connection with the academy was long, and useful to the institution. He succeeded the Rev. Mr. Paine, as a trustee, in 1800 ; and, in 1818, became the president of the board, upon the resignation of Dr. Sumner.

In tracing the history of the institution, I have already been led to mention the part he took, on more than one occasion, in its public exercises. His address, at the opening of the new academy, in 1806, was published, and received with much favor.

He retired from the institution in 1831, and was succeeded

by the Rev. George Allen. On this occasion, the trustees adopted resolutions, which were entered upon their records, expressive of their high sense of his character, and his long and faithful services in the cause of the academy.

He survived till 1839, when, at the age of fourscore and four years, he closed a life of eminent industry and distinguished usefulness, having outlived whatever feeling of animosity or unkindness may have grown out of the separation of an old religious society, and the sundering of ties that such an event too often occasions.

HON. WILLIAM STEDMAN, of Lancaster, succeeded the Hon. Moses Gill, July 3d, 1800.

He was a graduate of Harvard College, in 1784, and was admitted to the bar in the county of Essex, in 1787.

In 1802, he represented Lancaster in the General Court, and, in the following year, was elected to Congress, and held a seat in that body till 1810, when he was appointed Clerk of the Courts in the County of Worcester, and resigned his seat in Congress.

Upon receiving this appointment, he removed to Worcester. But a political revolution in the State threw him out of office the following year. In 1812, however, he again received the appointment, which he was obliged to resign in 1816, and, about the same time, gave up his connection with the trust of Leicester Academy, in consequence of a vote of the trustees, which they saw fit afterwards partially to obliterate.

He thereupon returned to Lancaster, and resumed his profession, in which he occasionally engaged, and remained connected with the bar till a short time previous to his death, when he removed to Newburyport. He died there, September, 1831, at the age of sixty-six.

His place, at the board of trustees, was filled by the Hon. Bezaleel Taft, Jr., Mr. Adams, who was first elected, having declined the place.

HON. NATHANIEL PAINE was elected a trustee in place of the Hon. Levi Lincoln, Senior, in July, 1802.

He was a native of Worcester, and resided there most of his life. His father, Timothy Paine, Esq., I have had occasion to mention, among the early benefactors of the academy.

He was graduated at Harvard, in 1775, and was admitted to the bar in 1781.

At first, he commenced practice in Groton, but, after a few years, returned to Worcester. Here he held, for some time, the office of County Attorney, the prosecuting office for the county of Worcester.

He was, several times, a representative in the General Court from the town of Worcester, and, in 1801, succeeded Judge Dorr, as Judge of Probate.

He held this honorable and responsible office for thirty-five years.

He resigned his place at the board of trustees, in 1812, and was succeeded by the Hon. Benjamin Heywood.

He died, October 7th, 1840, at the age of eighty-two years.

With some peculiarities of temperament, Judge Paine was an estimable friend, and an upright and excellent citizen.

Forming, as he did, one of the few connecting links then existing between the ante-revolutionary generation, and one which had come upon the stage, and was itself passing away during his long life, his reminiscences of public men who had, during that period, been actors in the events that had rendered our history so memorable, often gave to his conversation great interest, and rendered him an agreeable, as well as an instructive companion. He held, at one time, a prominent place at the bar, but, in the enjoyment of an independent competence, he had withdrawn from practice many years before his death.

HON. BENJAMIN HEYWOOD was elected a trustee, in the place of Judge Paine, in November, 1812. He was a native of Shrewsbury, and, in early life, worked at the trade of a housewright. Having, however, a strong desire to obtain an education, he prepared to enter college, and became a member of Harvard University, in 1771. The classes, however, were

dispersed, by the coming on of the revolution, before the time of his graduation. He received his degree in regular course, although he was commissioned as a lieutenant in the provincial service in May, 1775, and the next year received a commission in the continental service, as captain, which rank he retained through the war, although much of the time he performed the arduous and responsible duties of paymaster in the army.

He soon acquired a distinguished reputation as an officer, for prudence, firmness, and a familiarity with the details of business, and was often entrusted with delicate and important commissions, in connection with some of the ablest men in the army.

After the peace, he returned to Worcester, and devoted himself to agricultural pursuits.

Such, however, was his capacity for business, and so strong was his hold upon public confidence, that he was soon called to more public duties, as well as the execution of private trusts.

In 1802, he was appointed a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and held the office till 1811. Besides this, he was twice chosen an Elector of President of the United States, and held many other places of honor and trust in the county.

He died in 1816, at the age of seventy-one years, "leaving the reputation of unstained integrity and extensive usefulness."*

He was succeeded at the board of trustees by the Hon. Daniel Waldo.

HON. AARON TUFTS succeeded Jonas Howe, Esq., in August, 1813. He was a native of Charlestown, but for most of his life resided in Dudley, where he at first studied medicine, with Dr. Eaton of that town, and practised in that profession for a few years; but afterwards became extensively engaged in manufactures, and acquired a handsome fortune. And there, in possession of a beautiful estate, he maintained a

* Lincoln's History of Worcester.

generous hospitality, and gathered around him the essentials of a pleasant home.

Few men, in his day, exerted a more commanding influence in the county. Though not what is called a man of "liberal education," his strong, good sense, his great sagacity and broad experience, rendered such an education the less necessary, and more than supplied it, in the practical business of life, both public and private.

He often represented the town of Dudley in the General Court, and from 1819 till 1825, was a member of the Senate from this county.

In 1819, he was appointed a "Sessions Justice" of the Court of Common Pleas, as then constituted, and, when that court was newly organized, in the same year, he was appointed, by the Governor and Council, a Justice of the Court of Sessions.

Those who recall the long and difficult struggle, by which anything like a protective tariff was obtained from Congress, will remember how important it was deemed, that the wisest, most discreet and experienced friends of American industry, should be employed to present their views before the committees of Congress.

Of the men selected for this purpose, was the subject of this notice; and no one, who knew him, doubted of the wisdom of the selection.

By the opportunities thus offered, Dr. Tufts became widely and very favorably known in the country.

In addition to this, there was, with all his energy and decision of character, an urbanity of manner at once dignified and refined, which rendered him an agreeable companion in social life, and won the confidence of those around him.

The evening of his days was saddened by the death of an only son, in whom his hopes had justly centred. He was educated at this academy, was graduated at Cambridge, in 1818, had obtained a commanding position at the bar, and

had been a member of the Senate for the county, when he was stricken down by disease, and died universally lamented.

Dr. Tufts survived till September 17th, 1843, when an honorable and useful career was closed, at the age of seventy-three years.

He was, for twenty years, a member of this board of trust, and proved himself a useful and efficient friend of the institution. Upon his resigning, he was succeeded by James Smith, Esq., of whose munificent contribution to the funds of the institution, I have already spoken.

SAMUEL M. BURNSIDE, ESQ., was elected to the board August, 1814, as successor to Mr. James, and upon the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Stone, became vice president of the board.

He remained a member of this body till his death, performing, with great diligence and punctuality, whatever duties were required of him in the office. His knowledge of the classics and his critical taste, fitted him peculiarly for the place. And in bringing these into exercise, he found pleasure combined with duty, to no small degree.

Mr. Burnside was born in Northumberland, N. H., and was graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1805. After this, he was employed two years as a teacher in the academy at Andover, and the scholastic habits and tastes which he there cultivated, he retained through life.

He studied law with the late Chief Justice Ward, of Boston, and was admitted to the bar in 1810.

He commenced business in Westboro', but soon removed to Worcester, where he ever afterwards resided.

He always took a great interest in schools and the cause of education generally, and to his exertion, while a member of the legislature, the public were indebted for reducing our school laws to something like a system, in a bill which he drafted and carried through the legislature.

He was a learned lawyer, and at one time commanded an extensive business in his profession.

For several years, however, before his death, his circumstances were such as to render devotion to any profession unnecessary, and he had chiefly withdrawn from practice.

He married a daughter of the Hon. Dwight Foster, and, consequently, a sister of the Hon. Alfred D. Foster, and thus added one more to a family to which Leicester Academy has been greatly indebted for the good management of her interests.

He died at the age of sixty-seven, in the year 1850. Happy in his family, and independent in his circumstances, he was enabled to indulge his tastes in literary studies and profound speculations, which embraced the subject of theology, for which he had a great fondness.

After so long and so useful a connection with this institution, his loss could not fail to be sensibly felt; and the trustees, by appropriate resolutions, acknowledged the debt of gratitude which was due to his services, and their sorrow for his loss.

REV. NATHANIEL THAYER, D. D., belonged to Lancaster, and was chosen to succeed the Rev. Mr. Ward.

He was born at Hampton, N. H., in 1769, and was graduated at Cambridge, in 1789. From 1792 to 1793, he was a tutor in Harvard College. Upon the termination of his connection with the college, he was employed to preach at Lancaster, and in the same year was ordained over the church and society in that town. He retained this connection until his death.

He is described, by those who knew him well, as possessing highly respectable and well-disciplined intellectual powers.

"Clearness of thought gave clearness of expression. "His discourses were calm, plain, practical, and solid: not the issues of a fertile imagination, to which he laid no claim." "A clear and distinct enunciation, with great gravity and solemnity in the conduct of the service, gave power to the devotional spirit, and additional weight and authority to the spoken word." *

* Willard's Lancaster Address.

Among the ministers of the Unitarian denomination he was held in high esteem, as a divine. And he was justly popular with all, from his dignity of manner, courteous bearing, and the kindly feelings which distinguish the gentleman, in his intercourse with others.

He was often called upon for occasional discourses, more than twenty of which were published.

He remained a member of the board, till 1826, when he resigned the place, and was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Bardwell.

Dr. Thayer died very suddenly, on the 23d of June, 1841, at Rochester, N. Y., where he had arrived a few hours previous, on a journey, in apparently good health, at the age of seventy-one years.

He was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity, in the year 1817.

REV. MICAH STONE was born in Reading, in 1770; was graduated at Cambridge, in 1790; and, for one year, was tutor in that university. In 1801, he was settled over the church and society in South Brookfield.

He was the son of a clergyman, and was obliged to struggle with embarrassments in obtaining an education, from the limited means of his father to aid him. But, in so doing, he developed the strong and vigorous traits of character which distinguished him, even in the somewhat circumscribed sphere in which he moved.

His last sermon was delivered at the age of eighty, on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination, and gave pleasing but unmistakable evidence that age had done little to impair an intellect originally strong and well-balanced.

To borrow the language of another :

“Few, indeed, after so long and responsible a life as his, will be able to look back upon it with so little to regret, of duties unfulfilled, or with so much satisfaction of having ever, even under the most trying circumstances, endeavored to do his duty.”

He is represented,—and those who knew him will recognize the description as true,—as having been uniform in the kindness and warmth of his disposition, upright, honest, and open in his dealings, an affectionate kinsman, neighbor, and friend.

He died without children, September 20th, 1853, aged eighty-three.

He was elected a member of the board of trustees in August, 1815, in place of Rev. Mr. Grosvenor, and proved to be a faithful, efficient officer. In May, 1831, he succeeded Gov. Lincoln, as vice-president of the board, and resigned the trust, in 1836, when he was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Bardwell, elected a second time to the board.

DR. AUSTIN FLINT was of Leicester, and was elected to fill the place of Thomas Newhall, Esq.

He was born in Shrewsbury, January 4th, 1760, and was the son of Dr. Edward Flint, of that town.

Both father and son were not only surgeons and physicians, but as eminent, as patriots, as they were in their professions. Both, at times, were engaged in the revolutionary war, as surgeons in the army; and, among other periods of service, I find the name of the son on the roll of Colonel Drury's regiment, at West Point, in 1781, at which time he was only twenty-one years of age.

Soon after the close of the war, he settled in Leicester, and married the daughter of Colonel William Henshaw, a distinguished officer in the revolution.

He was, for many years, the only physician in the town of Leicester, and deservedly held a high rank in his profession.

He was a man of great energy of character, and, so long as he continued in active life, exercised a commanding influence in that community, who had learned to appreciate the accuracy of his judgment, the soundness of his principles, and the honesty of his purposes.

He carried, through life, in the opinions he entertained, and the fearlessness with which he manifested them, the results of that early training which he received during the agi-

tations and trying scenes of the revolution, in which he so early took a part.

He was an early and constant friend of the academy, and his contributions to its funds have already been spoken of.

Being a resident in town, his services and advice were often put in requisition.

One of his sons, Joseph H., who was educated here, was an eminent physician, and died before the father.

Another, who was also fitted for college here, was, at one time, preceptor of the English department, and subsequently declined an election to the board of trustees; while a third succeeded the father in the business of his profession, upon his retiring from the practice.

Dr. Flint often represented the town in the legislature, and was, for many years, an active magistrate, performing its duties with much ability and unquestionable integrity.

Few men had stronger claims upon the regards of his friends and associates, than Dr. Flint. With a good knowledge of men, a large fund of anecdote, and a cheerfulness and good-humor ever ready and ever playful, he was a welcome visitor at the bed-side of the sick, and at the firesides of his friends. No child passed him without a kind word of recognition, and no one of his townsmen, when in need of counsel or advice, but sought it gladly of him.

If this were an occasion to indulge in the expression of a grateful memory, I might venture to speak more in detail of one who filled up a life of ninety-one years with duty and usefulness; and had a right to indulge the consciousness that the world was better for his having lived.

He died August 29th, 1850. He had resigned his place as trustee, in 1831, and been succeeded by the Hon. William B. Banister.

REV. EDWARDS WHIPPLE was successor to the Rev. Mr. Pope, in 1816.

He was born in New Braintree, in 1778, and was graduated at Williams College, in 1801. He was settled over the

Congregational church and society in Charlton, in 1804, and was dismissed from that charge in 1821. On the 26th September, of the same year, he was installed over the church and society in Shrewsbury, as a colleague with Dr. Sumner. He died on the 22d September, in less than a single year from his installation, at the age of only forty-four years, in the full vigor of his intellect and his manhood.

Dr. Nelson preached an able and interesting sermon at his funeral, which was published, and paid a just tribute to his eminent qualities of mind and heart as a gentleman and a Christian minister.

Mr. Whipple was a universal favorite, kind and bland in his manners, cheerful in his intercourse with all, an interesting preacher, and a devoted pastor. Nature and grace seemed to have united to fit him for the sacred office in which he ministered.

His person was finely proportioned ; his voice remarkably sweet and musical ; and his whole bearing and intercourse were such as to win the confidence and respect of all who knew him.

He was a member of the board of trustees at his death, and was succeeded by the Rev. Samuel Clark, then of Princeton.

HON. DANIEL WALDO was chosen a trustee in August, 1817, in place of Judge Heywood.

For the brief notice of this liberal and excellent friend of Leicester Academy, I am indebted to a note appended to a just and appropriate discourse by the Rev. Dr. Sweetzer, preached on the occasion of his death.

Mr. Waldo was born in Boston, January 20th, 1763. He was the son of an eminent merchant, who removed from that city, and came to Worcester in 1782.

He was educated as a merchant, and pursued that avocation for many years, with great intelligence and success.

Nor did he relax his diligent attention to his own affairs after he had acquired an entire independence, although he

had, for many years before his death, ceased to be engaged in mercantile transactions.

He was a member of the Senate from the year 1816 to 1819. He was one of the founders of the Worcester County Agricultural Society, and, for four years, was president of the society.

He was a useful and excellent member of the board of trustees of Leicester Academy, and evinced his continued interest in its success by a liberal legacy bequeathed to the institution in his last will, of six thousand dollars, which has already been noticed.

This was but one of the many bequests, and some of them princely ones, which Mr. Waldo made at his decease.

He was a man of great purity of life, systematic in all his measures, benevolent in his feelings, energetic in accomplishing whatever he undertook, and upright in all his ways.

He died July 9th, 1845, at the age of eighty-two, with his faculties and powers unimpaired by age. He resigned his place as a trustee in 1834, and was succeeded by Hon. James Allen.

HON. BEZALEEL TAFT, JR., was the son of a distinguished gentleman of Uxbridge, of the same name, who, for many years, filled an important place in the affairs of the county, having been successively a representative in the General Court, Senator, and member of the Executive Council, besides occupying other places of responsible trust.

The son was born in Uxbridge, and was graduated at Cambridge in 1804.

He studied law, and settled in Uxbridge, where he resided till death, in 1846, at the age of sixty-six.

Unfortunately for his eminence in the profession, he had no particular taste for its pursuits, and he felt no necessity of depending upon its emoluments for his support.

He was thus able to indulge a fondness for rural life, which he enjoyed in the management of a beautiful farm on the banks of the Blackstone.

He often represented his native town in the legislature, in 1825, was elected to the Senate, and was afterwards a member of the Executive Council.

When the State Lunatic Hospital at Worcester was erected, a commission was created by the Governor and Council to plan and superintend its construction, of which Mr. Taft was a member.

He became a trustee of the academy in 1818,* and resigned it in 1829, being succeeded in the office by George Davis, Esq.

For many years, the condition of Mr. Taft's health compelled him to withdraw from public life, though he continued to take a lively interest in the passing events.

Though not a scholar, he was a man of good general intelligence, of agreeable manners, and fine social qualities.

Agriculture was his favorite pursuit, and he took an early and lasting interest in the success of the Worcester County Agricultural Society, of which he was a prominent and active member.

His life was rather one of dignified quiet than stirring incident, and, in the enjoyment of personal independence upon his own estate, it could furnish but few subjects for an extended biographical notice.

REV. JOSIAH CLARK was born in Northampton, in 1785, and was graduated at Williams College in 1809. The same year, he was employed as English preceptor of the academy, and succeeded Mr. Wilson as principal in March, 1812, when, having in the mean time pursued the study of theology, he was settled as minister over the Congregational church and society in Rutland. He held this place till his death, in 1845, at the age of sixty, on which occasion the trustees adopted

* Mr. Taft was elected in place of Mr. Stedman, or, rather, of Hon. Benjamin Adams, of Uxbridge, who declined election. Mr. Adams was a lawyer by profession. He was a graduate of Brown University in 1788, and, from 1816 to 1821, was a member of Congress. He was previously a member of the State Senate, a gentleman of great worth and integrity, and much respected. He died March 25th, 1837, at the age of seventy-two years.

resolutions expressive of their high sense of his services to the academy, and his claims upon their grateful remembrance.

In 1819, he became successor to Dr. Sumner as a member of the trustees of the academy, and remained a member until his death.

Mr. Clark was a faithful and acceptable teacher and principal of the academy. He was a respectable scholar, devoted to the interests of the school, and his ready sympathies and kindly feelings made him a favorite with the students. No one who remembers him in that relation will hesitate to accord to his memory this tribute of personal respect and attachment.

The institution was prosperous under his management, and the interest he then acquired in its success, he retained during life.

As a pastor, Mr. Clark was equally faithful and devoted to his trust. He was a good writer, a ready and fluent speaker, and a popular preacher. He was a willing counsellor and a faithful friend, in his parish, as well as a spiritual guide.

He could not, in his nature, have an enemy, and though he may not have held a rank among the great men of the land, he had the more enviable character of a good one, and few have gone down to the grave with better assurance of having fulfilled his mission, than the subject of this notice.

If, in this brief sketch, the language may seem to be borrowed from sentiments of personal regard, it is simply because the relation of a friend furnished the best opportunity for knowing his characteristic qualities, as a Christian and a man.

His son was, at a subsequent period, successively preceptor of the English and Latin departments of the school, and sustained the reputation of the father, as a teacher.

HON. WILLIAM BOSTWICK BANISTER, elected a trustee in place of Dr. Austin Flint, in November, 1831, was a native of Brookfield, and was born November 8th, 1773. He was graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1797.

He studied law, and pursued his profession in Newburyport, where he spent the greater part of his life.

He removed to Brookfield about the time of his election to the board of trustees of the academy, and remained there a few years, after which he returned to Newburyport, where he died July 1st, 1853, at the age of seventy-nine.

Among his public duties, he represented Newburyport in the legislature, and was, for some time, a member of the Senate from Essex county.

Though not a brilliant man, he was a man of a good deal of influence in his county, and took a leading part in the religious and benevolent movements of the day. Among other trusts of this kind, he was one of the trustees, and afterwards of the visitors of the theological seminary at Andover, a trustee of Amherst College, and a trustee of the Putnam Free School in Newburyport.

His connection with Leicester Academy was too brief to have produced any marked influence upon its success. He resigned his place at the board in May, 1833, and was succeeded by Hon. A. D. Foster.

For many years, the enjoyment of wealth relieved him from the necessity of laboring in his profession. But his powers were not suffered to lie dormant, and his interest in the cause of education and morals gave employment to time and energies.

In this way, though retired from the active scenes of life, he was able to make his influence felt, and his death was a public loss.

HON. ALFRED DWIGHT FOSTER was the son of Hon. Dwight Foster, already mentioned as one of the distinguished members of this board of trustees.

He was born at Brookfield, July 26th, 1800. He was, in part, fitted for college at this academy, and, at the age of fifteen, entered Harvard College, and was graduated, with a good reputation for scholarship, in 1819.

He studied law with Mr. Burnside, who, it has already been

mentioned, had married his sister, and was admitted to the bar in 1822.

After the death of his father, in 1823, Mr. Foster removed to Worcester, where he spent the remainder of his days.

He was engaged in the practice of his profession for about two years after his removal, but from that time he withdrew from all connection with the bar, and devoted his life to literary pursuits, and the calls of public duty and private benevolence. He filled in succession many of the municipal offices of the town, was a representative in the General Court, a member of the Executive Council for three years, and a member of the Senate in 1848.

Yet, though so often called into public life, it was without any inclination or desire for office. In accepting this, he yielded only to the urgent wishes of his fellow-citizens, and a sense of duty he felt to devote his powers to the good of his fellow-men.

He was a member of the original board of trustees of the State Lunatic Hospital, and, for fourteen years, its treasurer. He was early engaged in the enterprise of founding the School of Reform of the young at Westboro', and was the confidential medium through whom Gen. Lyman communicated his munificent proposals to the legislature, which resulted in the establishment of that noble charity.

Mr. Foster was placed at the head of a commission to fix a locality for the school, and afterwards at the head of another commission, superintending the plan and erection of its buildings.

He was, for fourteen years, a trustee of Amherst College, and for many years an active member of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

To all places of trust and responsibility which he was called to fill, Mr. Foster brought untiring industry and fidelity, as well as great sagacity and good sense. Modest and self-distrustful to a fault, he unconsciously commanded the confidence

and respect of all, and exerted an influence which is awarded to merit alone.

Yet there was nothing of timidity or misgiving when duty called upon him for action. At such times, the world's favor and the world's frown were alike disregarded. And he shrunk not from exposing, and often in terms of indignant eloquence, vice, sophistry, or falsehood, in whatever quarter they were detected.

In private and domestic life, few had less faults. He was faithful and sincere as a friend, upright and honorable in all his transactions, and unwavering in his integrity in all things.

He left but few public writings, but he was neat, strong and clear in his style, and, in whatever he wrote or uttered, he was earnest, truthful and sincere.

He passed through life without doing justice to his own unconscious powers, but acted up, in all things, to the highest claim of conscience and duty upon his judgment and understanding.

He was chosen to succeed Mr. Banister as trustee of the academy in 1833, and resigned the place in 1849, and was succeeded by the Hon. Judge Kinnicutt.

Mr. Foster died August 15th, 1852.

REV. AMOS BULLARD was chosen a trustee in place of the Rev. Mr. Clark, in May, 1846. He was born in Medway, was graduated at Amherst College, in 1833, and studied theology at Andover.

In November, 1839, he was elected assistant preceptor, on the Waters Fund, and held the place till 1841.

He was ordained over one of the Congregational societies in Barre, October 26, 1843, and died August 21st, 1850, aged forty-three.

He was succeeded, as trustee, by Rev. Andrew C. Dennison, of Leicester.

Mr. Bullard was a fine classical scholar, and a writer of great beauty, and greatly excelled in metaphysics.

His early death was deeply felt by his people, and mourned

as a loss by the institution. Having been an instructor, he knew its wants, and felt interested in its success. His widow, after his death, became, and still is, the female assistant teacher in the academy.

JOHN SARGENT, Esq., was born, and lived, most of his life, in Leicester.

For several years before his death, he was engaged in mercantile business, and was postmaster of Leicester. He held the office of town clerk, and other places of trust, in the town.

He succeeded the Hon. N. P. Denny, as trustee, August 10th, 1846, and proved to be a faithful and useful member of the board.

Mr. Sargent died February 13th, 1850, at the age of fifty-three, in the midst of a life of usefulness, leaving the character of an excellent citizen and good man, if it had not been his mission to achieve a name beyond the circle in which he was personally known and respected.

He was succeeded by H. A. Denny, Esq., in the board of trustees. He had been a pupil at the academy, in his earlier days, and, in 1821, was employed, for a while, as an assistant teacher in the English department.

THIS completes our brief notices of the men, to whom, in part, the interests of this institution have been committed.

It would have given the writer of this, unfeigned pleasure to have spoken, as he wished, of others whose names are borne upon the lists of its trustees. But delicacy to the living hardly admits of this being done. And he leaves to others to do justice to these names when they shall be added to that honorable and honored roll, whose influence still lives, and whose memory ought to be dear to every friend of literature, religion, and humanity, in the Commonwealth.

Long may it be before another shall be called upon to complete a work which has been thus imperfectly begun.

And yet it cannot be concealed that, to several of these, has

already been accorded a length of years, and a generous share of life's duties, and the world's honors.

For the term of forty-three years, has the venerable president devoted his best energies to the success of the institution, and others yet remain, whose official connection with the institution began nearly as early as his. Surely may it be said, if the academy has not been all that was desired, it has not been from any want of interest, zeal, or effort, on the part of its trustees.

CHAPTER V.

PERSONAL NOTICES OF THE PRECEPTORS AND TEACHERS OF
THE ACADEMY.

THE following is believed to be a correct list of those, in the order in which they were employed :

PRINCIPAL PRECEPTORS.

Benjamin Stone,	.	.	.	from June, 1784, to Oct. 1787
Amos Crosby,	.	.	.	" Oct. 1787, " July, 1788
Samuel Sumner,	.	.	.	" Oct. 1788, " July, 1790
David Smith,	.	.	.	" July, 1790, " May, 1792
Ebenezer Adams,	.	.	.	" May, 1792, " July, 1806
Zephaniah S. Moore,	.	.	.	" July, 1806, " Oct. 1807
Simeon Colton,	.	.	.	" Oct. 1807, " Feb. 1809
Luther Wilson,	.	.	.	" Feb. 1809, " Aug. 1812
Josiah Clark,	.	.	.	" March, 1812, " Aug. 1818
Bradford Sumner,	.	.	.	1 term, 1818, " 1819
John Richardson,	.	.	.	" Feb. 1819, " Aug. 1833
Luther Wright,	.	.	.	" Aug. 1833, " Aug. 1839
Joseph L. Partridge,	.	.	.	" Aug. 1839, " Nov. 1845
Josiah Clark, Jr.,	.	.	.	" Jan. 1846, " Jan. 1849
Burritt A. Smith,	.	.	.	" July, 1849, " Aug. 1852
Alvan Hyde Washburn,	.	.	.	" Aug. 1852.

ASSOCIATE OR ENGLISH PRECEPTORS.

Thomas Payson,	.	.	.	.	from 1784 to 1786
Amos Crosby,	.	.	.	.	" 1786 " 1787
Samuel Sumner,	.	.	.	.	" 1788 " 1788
Ebenezer Adams,	.	.	.	.	" 1791 " 1792
Thomas S. Sparhawk,	.	.	.	.	" 1792 " 1793
Samuel Crossett,	.	.	.	.	1 quarter, 1793
John Pierce,	.	.	.	.	from 1793 " 1795
Theodore Dehon,	.	.	.	.	" 1795 " 1796
James Jackson,	.	.	.	.	2 quarters 1796 " 1797
Samuel Hunt, Jr.,	}	.	.	.	2 quarters, 1797
John Dixwell,	}	.	.	.	

William M. Richardson,	.	.	.	.	from 1797 to 1798
Thaddeus Fairbanks	.	.	.	.	" 1798 " 1800
Timothy Boutelle,	.	.	.	.	" 1800 " 1801
Timothy Fuller,	.	.	.	.	" 1801 " 1802
Eleazer Foster,	.	.	.	.	" 1802 " 1803
George C. Shuttuck,	.	.	.	.	" 1803 " 1804
Otis Hutchins,	.	.	.	.	" 1804 " 1805
William J. Whipple,	.	.	.	.	" 1805 " 1806
Luther Wilson,	.	.	.	.	" 1806 " 1807
John Field,	.	.	.	.	" 1807 " 1808
John Nelson,	.	.	.	.	1 quarter, 1808
Josiah Clark,	.	.	.	.	from 1808 " 1812
Amos Nurse,	.	.	.	.	" 1812 " 1814
Waldo Flint,	.	.	.	.	" 1814 " 1815
Ezra Hunt,	.	.	.	.	" 1815 " 1817
John F. Adams,	.	.	.	.	3 quarters, 1817 " 1818
Emory Washburn,	.	.	.	.	1 quarter, 1818
David Brigham,	.	.	.	.	1 quarter, 1819
Bradford Russell,	.	.	.	.	from 1819 " 1820
Thomas Fiske,	.	.	.	.	from 1820 to June, 1821
Increase S. Smith,	.	.	.	.	from 1821 to 1822
Alonzo Hill,	.	.	.	.	from 1822 to April, 1824
Thomas Denny,	.	.	.	.	1 quarter, 1824
Increase S. Smith,	.	.	.	.	from 1824 to 1826
Henry D. Ward,	.	.	.	.	from May, 1826 " 1828
Charles Sprague Henry,	.	.	.	.	from 1828 " 1829
Albert Spooner,	.	.	.	.	" 1829 " 1833
Joseph L. Partridge,	.	.	.	.	" 1833 " 1839
Amos Bullard,	.	.	.	.	" 1839 " 1841
Josiah Clark, Jr.,	.	.	.	.	from 1841 to Nov. 1845
John N. Putnam,	.	.	.	.	from 1846 to 1847
Burritt A. Smith,	.	.	.	.	from 1847 to July, 1849
William W. Rice,	.	.	.	.	from 1849 to 1851
Hanson L. Reed,	.	.	.	.	" 1851.

Besides the above, the following gentlemen have been employed as temporary assistants, or, under the present arrangement of the schools, as permanent assistants in the instruction of the academy :

1785, .	.	.	.	.	Phinehas Bruce.
1791, .	.	.	.	.	Stephen Ball.
1799, .	.	.	.	.	Alpheus Stone.
1802, .	.	.	.	.	Charles Bulfinch.

1802,	James Day.
1802,	Joel Davis.
1803,	Edward A. Selfredge.
1808,	Joseph Sprague.
1812,	Penuel Corbet.
1814,	John W. Hubbard.
1815,	Amos Hunting.
1816-17,	Seth Washburn.
1817,	Amory Hunting.
1818,	John Goulding.
1819,	George W. Livermore.
1821,	John Sargent.
1822,	John Jennison.
1823,	Amos D. Wheeler.
1828,	Dexter S. King.
1834 to 1845,	Luther Haven.
1834,	Charles C. Jewett.
1846 to 1848,	Francis A. March.
1848 to 1849,	William W. Rice.
1849 to 1851,	Hanson L. Reed.
1851 to 1852,	Jonathan L. Jenkins.
1852 to 1854,	Jacob Ide.
1854,	Charles R. Bliss.

FEMALE TEACHERS.

1835 to 1848,	Miss Elizabeth Holmes.
1849,	Mrs. Mary G. Smith.
1850,	Miss Elizabeth F. Bardwell.
1850,	Miss Margaret B. Smith.
1851,	Mrs. Marianne Bullard.

BENJAMIN STONE, Esq., was the first teacher and preceptor employed in Leicester Academy. He was a native of Shrewsbury, and was graduated at Harvard, in 1776. He entered upon his duties, in this academy, June 7th, 1784. His salary, at first, was £60 a year, which was increased, the following year, to £85. Even this, however, was in arrear, at times, in consequence of the embarrassed state of the finances of the academy. And, in 1787, in consequence of the reduced number of students in the academy, it was concluded to employ but a single teacher. Mr. Stone was voted a leave of absence, to return when the number of students should require his services.

His engagements, elsewhere, probably prevented his resuming his engagement, for he does not appear to have acted as preceptor after this time.

After leaving Leicester, he was preceptor of Westford Academy, for some time. But, for many years before his death, he resided in Shrewsbury, in great retirement, upon a farm, in feeble health and impaired spirits.

He, however, retained, to the last, a lively interest in this academy, and often spoke, with great pleasure, of the period when he was at its head.

There can be, of course, but little in the life of such a man to record. Those who remembered him, and there were many, till a few years since, in his capacity of teacher, spoke of him as faithful, and devoted to his office, and well qualified for its duties.

He lived to see the first boy who entered his school, the Governor of a neighboring State, and the sons of Leicester Academy scattered, and making their influence felt, in almost, if not every, State in the Union. Such has been the harvest of that seed, that was sown in weakness, within the memory of a few still living witnesses. Mr. Stone died in 1832, at the age of seventy-six.

AMOS CROSBY, ESQ., succeeded Mr. Stone. He was assistant preceptor, in 1786, and, in October, 1787, was elected principal preceptor of the academy. This office he held till July of the following year.

Mr. Crosby was a native of Brookfield, and was graduated at Cambridge, in 1786.

After leaving Leicester, he was a tutor in Harvard College, for four years; after which, he was employed, awhile, as principal preceptor of Westford Academy, succeeding Mr. Stone there, as he had done at Leicester.

Upon giving up teaching, he studied law, and settled in Brookfield, where he remained till his death.

He was a man of great quickness, and ready wit, with convivial tastes and habits.

As a scholar, he held a creditable rank, and his early success in life gave an earnest of an honorable and distinguished career.

But the tastes and habits which rendered his society attractive, in early and middle life, obtained a mastery over him, in more mature years. And, though his life was protracted, it added nothing to the reputation and rank he held, upon entering the profession he had chosen.

He died June, 1836, at the age of seventy-five.

REV. SAMUEL SUMNER followed Mr. Crosby, in the office of preceptor.

He was first appointed English preceptor, in July, 1788 ; and, in October of that year, on account of the straitened circumstances of the academy, he was put in charge of both schools, and continued to conduct them as long as he remained connected with the academy. In July, 1790, he was succeeded by David Smith.

Mr. Sumner was the son of the Rev. Dr. Sumner, of Shrewsbury, and was born September 24th, 1765.

He was graduated at Dartmouth, in 1786. After leaving Leicester, he studied theology with his father, and was ordained over the church and society in Southboro', in June, 1791. In 1797, he was dismissed, and removed to St. Albans, Vt., where he continued to preach, although not settled over any society.

From St. Albans he removed to Bakersfield, Vt., about the year 1803, and preached there for a while. After that, he removed to Troy, Vt., where he died, at the residence of his son, in the year 1837, at the age of seventy-two.

It is said that he often expressed the belief that he had mistaken his mission in selecting the pulpit for his sphere of duty, and no particular success seems to have distinguished his career after leaving the academy, where he had proved himself an acceptable teacher, though his temperament disinclined him to active effort in any calling.

REV. DAVID SMITH. Of this gentleman, who succeeded

Mr. Sumner in July, 1790, and held the place of preceptor till May, 1792, I am in possession of fewer facts than I could have wished. From the kindness, however, of friends,* I am enabled to give the following :

He was the son of Col. Isaac Smith, of Ipswich, Mass., born July 23d, 1761, and was graduated at Harvard in 1790. He immediately afterwards engaged in teaching at Leicester Academy, as has been mentioned. While thus employed, he was engaged in studying theology, and, upon leaving Leicester, pursued the study with the Rev. Dr. Joseph Dana, and in January, 1795, was settled in the ministry at Amesbury, Mass. In 1802 or 3, having dissolved his connection with his people, in May, 1800, he was employed as a missionary in the western part of New York, whose settlements were then new and sparse. Here he lost the use of his voice to such a degree as to incapacitate him from preaching, and to compel him to abandon the ministry. Before engaging as a missionary, he had been employed in teaching school in Salem.

In 1807, he removed to Bath, N. H., where, and in Franconia, he resided nineteen years, having, during that time, charge of the iron works at Franconia in that State.

In 1826, he removed to Portland, Me., where he died, May 19th, 1837, at the age of seventy-six, leaving a family of sons and daughters. In person, he was tall, slender, and well formed, his countenance handsome and intelligent, his voice pleasant, and his deportment and manners bland and dignified.

EBENEZER ADAMS, Esq., became the English preceptor in May, 1791, upon the revival of the school, and the employment again of separate teachers in the respective departments. He taught in this department till May, 1792, when he succeeded Mr. Smith as principal.

This place he held till July, 1806, when he resigned it, and removed to Portland, Maine, to take charge of an academy there. He remained there, I believe, but a single year, when

* O. Carlton, Esq., of Salem, and I. Goodall, Esq., of Bath, and Dr. J. A. Palmer, Boston.

he was appointed to the head of the mathematical department of Exeter Academy, and held that place two years.

In 1809, he was appointed professor of the languages in Dartmouth College, of which college he was an alumnus, and, in 1811, was transferred to the professorship of mathematics and natural philosophy, for which he was admirably fitted by taste as well as culture. His professorship he retained till 1833, when he resigned it, and lived in retirement till his death, in 1842, at the age of seventy-seven.

The connection of Prof. Adams with this academy deserves something more than a passing notice. It was to his exertions and his skill and learning as a teacher, more than anything else, that the institution acquired the high reputation which it held under his administration, and may be said to have held, with perhaps unequal prominence at times, ever since.

He was a native of New Ipswich, N. H., and was born in 1765. He was graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1791, so that he entered upon his duties, as a teacher, before he had received his diploma as a graduate from college.

He was, at that time, of the mature age of twenty-six years; and he entered upon the duties of the place, as a profession which he was to pursue for life, and he brought to it strong powers and a willing spirit.

While at Leicester, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace, and was, I believe, the first postmaster of the town. This was in 1805.

Mr. Adams was fortunate, also, in those who were associated with him, as the preceptors in the English department. And I have only to mention Dr. Pierce, Bishop Dehon, Dr. Jackson, Chief Justice Richardson, and Hon. Timothy Bou-telle, as among the number, to be justified in the remark.

When, in 1798, Dr. Moore became the minister of the parish, he found him, at once, a congenial spirit; and an acquaintance which had begun in college, ripened into an intimate friendship, which ceased only with their lives.

Under these circumstances, it was fortunate for Professor

Adams, as well as the academy, that he was employed to develope and direct its early character.

His mind was remarkably clear, his knowledge accurate, and his skill and judgment in the management and discipline of a school, rarely surpassed.

This justly gave him a strong hold upon the respect of his pupils ; and the urbanity of his manners, united to the fearlessness with which he maintained his opinions, won their confidence and esteem.

Many of the early pupils of the academy remember Mr. Adams ; and, as an evidence that I do not speak from impressions derived from an intimate knowledge of him in after years, I quote, with pleasure, from one of the many letters I have received, in which expressions of a kindly remembrance are indulged, the following, from one of his former pupils :

“Do you remember that highly-respected, strong man, Ebenezer Adams ? He was a man of great intellectual powers, although there was no manifestation of it in his deportment. He exerted a good and powerful influence over those under his charge. I remember him with feelings of gratitude and profound respect.”

The sentiments of the trustees, in respect to his character and qualifications, for the place he had held, are preserved in the letter upon their records, addressed to him, in reply to one tendering his resignation :

“Permit us, sir, to express our unreserved approbation of your conduct in the government and instruction of the academy, and to tender you our sincere thanks for your long, vigilant, and faithful services in those trusts.”

I add to this testimonial, an extract, from the address of Dr. Pierce, to which I have so often referred :

“Here I became intimately associated, in the instruction and government of this institution, with Ebenezer Adams, the principal, whose name I cannot recall without deep emotions of respect and affection ; with whom I was in habits of increasing intimacy, so long as he was spared to the world.”

Mr. Adams married Alice, daughter of Doctor Russel, who died at the age of thirty-seven, in 1800, leaving five children, all but one of whom fell victims to that insidious disease, consumption, that seems to mark the fairest and brightest of our race for an early grave. His son, once a preceptor of the English department, alone survives. But two children, by a second marriage, are living; one of them, the wife of Professor Young, his successor, as a professor, in Dartmouth College.

Professor Adams retained, through life, an undiminished attachment to the place and people with whom he was so long associated. And, whenever he re-visited them, as he sometimes did, he found these feelings cordially reciprocated by all who had known him there.

He was succeeded, as preceptor, by one, who, perhaps, better than any other, could carry out that system of discipline and instruction which, under Mr. Adams, had raised the reputation of the academy so high—the Rev. Dr. Moore—of whom I have already spoken, in my notices of the trustees of the academy.

Of Mr. Colton, and Mr. Wilson, happily I am spared the occasion to associate their names with any but the living memorials of the school they once taught. And of Mr. Clark I have already spoken, in his character as trustee.

Mr. Sumner, too, is still among us.

JOHN RICHARDSON became preceptor, in August, 1819, and held the place four years. He was a native of Woburn, and was graduated at Cambridge, in 1813. He was an accurate scholar and a good instructor. After resigning his place, at Leicester, he removed to Andover, and died in 1841.

There is less occasion to dwell upon the connection of Mr. Richardson, with the academy, from the extent to which I have already had occasion to notice the important changes that took place, under his administration, about the time of the accession to the funds of the academy, by the legacy of Capt. Waters.

As all the remaining preceptors of the academy are still living, I recur to those, who, on their part, have aided in sustaining the English department of the school.

THOMAS PAYSON, Esq., was the first of these, having entered upon the duties of his office, in August, 1784. If a man were willing to labor for worldly renown alone, the life of a teacher would be one of the last in which he would engage. He sows seed which but begins to germinate in his own day ; and the generation that comes after him only knows the true fruits of his toils. And yet it is not the meed of popular applause that he then wins, and he must be content with the consciousness of a noble duty, well done, and the assurance that his memory will be gratefully cherished by a few, while, to most of the world, the fact of his having lived will have faded away.

Mr. Payson is not a rare illustration of what I have found true, in my investigations for the materials of this report. Not a few were still living, who had been his pupils at Leicester Academy, and who, one and all, spoke in terms of affection and respect of their early teacher ; but, of his fate and his fortune, after that period, they could not inform me.

Fortunately, I applied to Dr. Joseph Palmer, whose diligence in storing facts, especially in the "necrology" of the graduates of Harvard, is only surpassed by the kindness and liberality with which he contributes of the results of his labors to others ; and, through him, and a note of great delicacy and propriety, which he procured from a daughter of Mr. Payson, I am able to give a brief outline of his life.

He was born in Boston, on the 28th of October, 1764. He was fitted for college at Andover, and was graduated at Cambridge, in 1784, and immediately afterwards entered upon his engagement at Leicester. Here he remained two years, and, during that time, was engaged in the study of theology, and he subsequently preached occasionally, but was never settled.

After leaving Leicester, he removed to Worcester, where

he was employed in teaching, for two or more years ; and, afterwards, for several years, was engaged in trade, in that town. From Worcester he removed to Charlestown, where, in 1797, he again resumed the business of teaching, as preceptor of the Russel Academy. Here he remained four years, and then removed to Boston, where he again engaged in mercantile business. He relinquished this business, however, after a few years, and, in 1809, was made master of the Franklin Grammar School, as it was afterwards called, which place he held for fourteen years. In 1826, he removed to Peterboro', N. H., where he resided till his death, April 20, 1844.

He was a man of liberal sentiments, kindly feelings, and ready sympathies. Being a good scholar, with a taste and tact for instruction, he could hardly fail to be a successful and acceptable instructor. He had, too, a frown, and a manner, that awed the disorderly or disobedient, as well as the cheerful look of encouragement, and sunny smile, that won the favor and affections of the young, and qualified him for what he so long was — a teacher.

THOMAS S. SPARHAWK, ESQ., became English preceptor, in May, 1792, and held the office a little more than a year.

He was the son of Rev. Ebenezer Sparhawk, of Templeton, and was graduated at Dartmouth College, in 1791, a classmate of Mr. Adams, whom he succeeded as preceptor of the English school.

He afterwards studied law with Silas Lee, Esq., in Wiscasset, Me., and established himself in his profession, at Bucksport, in that State.

He occasionally represented that town in the legislature, and was gaining a good business and reputation, as a lawyer, when he was cut off, at the age of thirty-seven, in the year 1807, leaving a family of children, a portion of whom still survive.

Of SAMUEL CROSSETT, who held the place of English preceptor, for a single term, in 1793, I have only been able to

ascertain that he was graduated at Dartmouth, in 1792. Of his subsequent history, I have no knowledge.

REV. JOHN PIERCE, D. D. The memory of this excellent man and accomplished teacher, is still so fresh in the minds of the people of Massachusetts, that it seems almost a work of supererogation, to attempt to write his history.

He was preceptor of the English department, for two years from July, 1793. After a period of more than fifty years, when that hair, of which he spoke, had become whitened with age, he was invited to come and make the annual address at the public exhibition. This address was listened to, with great delight, by a large audience. It is now before me, and I have already borrowed freely from the facts it embodies. Nor can I better present the well-stored memory, the genial and kindly feelings, the freshness, sincerity, and singleness of heart, which made Dr. Pierce so universally beloved, in a better form, than to copy, from this address, his account of the condition of the academy when he taught there, and the part he took in the management and instruction of the school :

“From the circumstance that I am in the very front rank of living instructors in this academy, it seems peculiarly appropriate, to ‘narrative old age,’ to recount a few of the multifarious reminiscences, which rush into my mind whenever I ascend ‘Leicester Hill.’ For here, on leaving Harvard University, on the very week which completed my twentieth year, I began to breathe the air of freedom. I was left to be my own director, and, what was more arduous still, I had the instruction of pupils, both male and female, for two successive years, committed to my care, a considerable portion of whom were my seniors. One had himself been an instructor before my remembrance, and, while under my tuition here, received from the Governor and Council, a Justice’s commission ; so that I had the pleasure, the day he left us, of addressing him, in the presence of my pupils, as ‘Esquire Fay.’ *

“Here, the purpose entertained from early youth, was confirmed, of becoming a preacher of the Gospel of Peace, of truth, and of love ; and a precious opportunity was afforded, by the small, yet well-selected library, which a generous individual had presented to this academy.†

* The gentleman referred to by Dr. P. was Nahum Fay, Esq., of Northboro’. He was married in 1779 ; had been many years employed as a school teacher, and, wishing to acquire a more accurate knowledge in some departments, he came to the academy, in his own carriage, driven by a son thirteen years old. He lived to be eighty-four years of age, and died in 1841

† Gov. Gill.

"For the first year of my instruction here, my salary was £60, or \$200.

"At first thought, this seems a scanty pittance, but its comparative value will be more justly estimated, when it is stated that the board in 'commons' was then but 5s. 6d. per week.

"The second year, my salary was £75, or \$250.

"During that period, the compensation to school teachers, from the undergraduates of Harvard University, ranged from eight to ten dollars per month, exclusive of board.

"On first coming here, it seemed, to my youthful imagination, a long journey.* I had never been so far from home by several miles. According to the costume of the times, I then wore a cocked, or three-cornered hat. My hair was queued with a ribbon, halfway down my back. I had silver knee-buckles at my knees; my plated shoe-buckles covered more than half of my insteps.

"Over the Latin school, was a chamber, in which the principal and myself occupied the same bed, for the two years we were together. Not only so, when a college friend was to pass the night with us, we all three slept together."†

I should gladly borrow other extracts, if I did not fear, by so doing, that I should extend this report beyond the plan as originally entertained in preparing it. I have given enough to show, that age never chilled, nor length of time dampened, the warm heart and lively sensibilities with which he had first gone out into the world.

He retained an interest in the academy as long as he lived.

After leaving Leicester, he became a tutor in Harvard College, and was ordained over the church and society in Brookline, in 1797, in which he continued to minister till his death, July, 1849, at the age of seventy-six. He received the honorary degree of D. D., from his Alma Mater, in 1822.

REV. THEODORE DEHON, D. D. succeeded Dr. Pierce in

* His native place was Dorchester.

† I cannot forbear one more extract, illustrating the change that has taken place in the means of inter-communication, between city and country, since that day:

"On the morning of 19th July, 1793, I embarked, very early in the morning, in Pease's stage, from Boston, spending the previous night in town, that I might be in season. Pease, himself, of Shrewsbury, drove the carriage. We breakfasted in Weston, dined in Worcester, and, late in the afternoon, arrived at Leicester.

"But this was expedition, compared with my first return home, when we started at 9½ from Leicester, dined in Worcester, supped and lodged in Marlboro', the next morning we breakfasted in Weston, and arrived at Boston the second day, at 12½."

the English school, and was, in every way, worthy to succeed so excellent a man. He was born in Boston, December 8, 1776, and was of that noble Huguenot stock, second only, if at all, to the Puritan and the Pilgrim.

He was graduated at Harvard, in 1795, at the age of eighteen, with high honor as a scholar. The next year, though but nineteen years of age, he took charge of the English department of the academy, in which he acquitted himself with great approbation and success.

Upon leaving Leicester, he entered upon the study of theology, and was admitted to the order of Priest in the Episcopal Church, in 1800. He, at the same time, became rector of the church in Newport, where he remained till 1809, when, in consequence of impaired health, he removed to Charleston, S. C., and was made rector of St. Michael's Church in that city.

In 1812, he was unanimously elected bishop of the diocese of South Carolina, and sustained the office with great dignity and ability, till his death, August 6th, 1817, when he fell a victim to the yellow fever.

For one dying at the early age of forty-one, he had accomplished much, and left the memory of a life filled with usefulness and honor.

In 1809, he was honored with the degree of D. D. from the college of New Jersey.

He published occasional sermons and addresses during his lifetime, and, after his death, two volumes of his sermons were published.

Few remember Bishop Dehon as a teacher after the lapse of near two generations, but the tradition that has come down to us from his pupils and associates is that, though young in years and small in stature, maturity of intellect supplied the one, and dignity, energy and promptness made one forget the other, in his presence. He was a popular teacher, and shewed as great a readiness in teaching others as he had in the development of his own scholarship in college.

DR. JOHN DIXWELL, under the name of Samuel Hunt, Jr., succeeded Dr. Jackson, as English preceptor, in January, 1797, Dr. Jackson having been called away from the academy after half a year's service.

He was a native of Boston, and a classmate of Dr. Jackson in the class of 1796, at Harvard. He only remained the balance of the year, and was succeeded by Hon. W. M. Richardson.

He was well spoken of as a teacher, though not engaged long enough to be distinguished.

His father was a master of one of the Boston schools, and his mother a direct, lineal descendant from the famous Colonel John Dixwell, the Regicide, he having, as it will be remembered, fled to this country after the restoration, and married late in life in New Haven, where his grave now is.

Out of respect to the memory of this illustrious ancestor, Mr. Hunt was permitted to take the name which he ever afterwards bore, leaving descendants who still sustain the family name.

He studied medicine, and earned for himself, in that profession, a reputation which was independent of traditionary fame.

He died, at the age of fifty-seven, in the year 1834. He is remembered, when at the academy, as of medium height, handsome form, and careful and neat in his person and his dress.

HON. WILLIAM MERCHANT RICHARDSON became the English preceptor, in July, 1797, and filled the place for one year. As such, he made an impression upon his pupils which seemed to anticipate the eminent rank he afterwards attained in life.

He was born in Pelham, N. H., January 4, 1774, and worked upon his father's farm till he was fifteen years of age.

He was graduated at Cambridge, in 1797, and immediately became a teacher at Leicester.

After leaving here, he became principal of the Groton

Academy, while he was engaged in studying law in the office of the late Chief Justice Dana of that town.

He commenced the practice of his profession in the same town, and, in 1811, was chosen to Congress from that district and served a part of two terms.

In 1814, he removed to Portsmouth, N. H., where he resumed his profession with good success.

The following little anecdote, which was told by an early friend and admirer of Chief Justice Richardson, illustrates either a premonition in his own mind, or one of those fortunate foretellings which is not prophecy.

Chief Justice Parsons had died in 1813. Such was the veneration for his name as a jurist, that the possession of a book which he had owned and studied, was a thing which almost any lawyer would desire. One of these was sold, among other books, at auction, and purchased by Mr. R. "There," said he, "I am going up to New Hampshire, and with this book I am going to become Chief Justice of that State in two years."

Probably the book had very little to do with the event, but, in 1816, he was appointed to the place of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of that State, and held the office as long as he lived.

He received the honorary degree of LL. D. from Dartmouth College, in 1827.

In 1819, he removed to Chester, where he resided till his death, in March, 1838.

Chief Justice Richardson was a learned lawyer and a strong man. His legal opinions, extending through a period of twenty-two years, are monuments of diligence, faithfulness, and learning. He was a scholar of refined and cultivated taste, and, in social and private life, is always spoken of as a pleasant companion and a valuable friend. In person, he was of a figure above the ordinary size, and of dignified bearing.

While residing at Leicester, he readily adapted himself to the tastes and sympathies of the people as well as of his pupils,

and, among the illustrations of these, was the zeal and spirit with which he conducted the sacred music at the ordination of Dr. Moore, when an ordination was one of the great events of the year, and the leader of the choir for the occasion, was scarce inferior in importance to the preacher of the ordination sermon.

These recitals may seem to partake rather of the character of gossip than grave biography. But it is by unimportant personal anecdotes, often, that the true character of a man is read.

DR. THADDEUS FAIRBANKS succeeded Chief Justice Richardson, in 1798, and remained connected with the academy till 1800.

He was born in Shelburn, Mass., in 1772, and was graduated at Yale College, in 1796.

He is said to have been "a popular and successful teacher, though of somewhat gay and fashionable manners." "He was loved, respected, and cheerfully obeyed by his pupils. He had a happy faculty of illustrating his instruction, and of infusing into his scholars a spirit of emulation. He would be facetious or grave, as the state of things demanded. He left the academy with a high reputation as a teacher."

In borrowing thus the language of an early pupil and friend of Mr. Fairbanks, I am sure that I am but doing him justice.

After leaving the academy, he studied theology, and preached for a while, but, though often "called," was never "settled" as a minister.

After this, he studied medicine, and practised that profession for some time in what is now Southbridge. The last years of his life he pursued the practice of his profession in Brimfield, where he died, in 1826.

His forte, however, was as an instructor. This was his appropriate sphere, and in it he ought to have remained.

HON. TIMOTHY FULLER was English preceptor for one year, 1801-2, as successor to Dr. Fairbanks.

He was born in Princeton, in 1778, the son of the Rev.

Timothy Fuller, of that town, and one of a somewhat numerous family of sons, who have been distinguished in the Commonwealth, the last of whom (Elisha) recently died in Worcester. He was graduated at Cambridge in 1801.

Of his character as a teacher, I speak by authority of one who knew him in that capacity. He is described as having been

“ A correct and thorough scholar, under whose instruction the pupils made good improvement, although by temperament less patient at times than desirable, and consequently less popular than he otherwise would have been.”

He was afterwards a successful lawyer in Suffolk and Middlesex. He resided at Cambridge, and represented that district in Congress, from 1817 to 1825. He was also one year Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Massachusetts legislature.

For the last few years of his life, he resided in Groton, where he died, October 1st, 1835, at the age of fifty-seven.

A son of his is a respectable clergyman in Boston, and was one of the chaplains of the legislature in 1854. His daughter, the Countess D'Ossoli, better known as Margaret Fuller, achieved too wide a fame as a writer to need anything more than the mention of her name. Her sad fate, with that of her husband and child, awakened a deep sympathy through the whole community.

ELEAZER FOSTER, ESQ., was preceptor of the English school in 1802-3. He was born in Union, Conn., June 4th, 1778, and was fitted for college at this academy. He was graduated at Yale, in 1800. He studied law, and established himself in New Haven, where he rose to distinction by the industry, integrity and ability which he brought into the practice of his profession.

He was, for some time before his death, the victim of disease, which was aggravated by his devotion to business.

He died at the early age of forty-one, May 1st, 1849, universally respected and beloved.

I have before me a sketch of Mr. Foster's character, by the late Judge Bristol, of the United States District Court, in Connecticut, in which he speaks of him in terms of warm admiration and respect.

"The deep concern felt at his illness, and the still deeper regret visible through all classes of our citizens at his death, form the best eulogy upon the character, and, at the same time, demand a tribute of respect to the virtues, of this excellent man. For the higher stations of a magistrate, and representative in the legislature, he was guided by that uprightness and impartiality, which fully evinced his love of justice, and his sacred regard to the true interests of the public."

His was a delightful, consistent character, in which the scholar, the Christian, and the man of business were blended in a manner to dignify and adorn his life, and endear his memory.

DR. GEORGE CHEYNE SHATTUCK. As we thus follow along the catalogue of those who have filled the place of which I am speaking, it is pleasant to find, at so many stages of our history, men not only successful in the sphere which, for a greater or less time they occupied, in connection with the academy, but great in whatever walk they chose in life, and eminent for qualities that command the respect and veneration of all.

We have already before us, on these pages, enough to justify this remark, and, were I at liberty to speak, as every one would think, of the living as of departed worthies, I should have no fear that I need qualify it. The name of one, the cotemporary and professional associate of Dr. Shattuck, comes up at once before me in this connection, but long may it be before, within the rule I have prescribed for these notices, his worth shall be recorded in the form of history.

Dr. Shattuck was one of the class of men to whom I have just alluded.

He was born in Templeton, in 1784, the son of Dr. Benjamin Shattuck, and was fitted for college at this academy. He was graduated at Dartmouth in 1803, and came at once to the academy as preceptor of the English department. Here he

remained till August, 1804, when he commenced the study of the profession to which he devoted his life.

His fidelity and success as a teacher were such as those who knew him in after life would have presumed from this uniform trait that distinguished his character.

I have never found one of his pupils who did not speak of him in terms of affection and respect. And to the generation that were upon the stage in Leicester as citizens, and knew him while resident there, his name and his subsequent history were always familiar. I have before me a letter from one of his pupils, who speaks of him, at that time, as an agreeable young man, a good scholar, of studious habits, very much beloved by the students, and a very successful instructor.

Of his life and success in his profession, I have no occasion to speak, in a community where he has so recently formed one of its prominent men.

Having acquired the means of indulging a spirit of liberal generosity, which formed one of the traits of his character, the history of his charities would disclose private and public benefactions creditable alike to his heart and his judgment. His Alma Mater shared liberally in his bounty. Harvard University has cause for gratitude for what he did for her, and the regard he always entertained for this academy was shown, on a recent occasion, by a voluntary contribution to make up the requisite sum to secure the proposed donation of Mr. Smith.

I have more than once heard him speak, with interest, of the pleasant memories which he cherished, of scenes and persons and events, which were associated with his connection with the academy.

He received many literary honors, from several of the American colleges ; among them, the degree of LL. D., from his Alma Mater, in 1853, and was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and President of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

He died in 1854, at the age of seventy, with intellect unim-

paired, and sympathies and affections unblunted by the wear of time.

WILLIAM J. WHIPPLE, Esq. was the preceptor of the English department, from August, 1805, to 1806, and succeeded Mr. Hutchins.

He was a native of Uxbridge, and was graduated at Cambridge, in 1805. He came to the place with the reputation of a respectable scholar, and, without any distinguished eminence as a teacher, sustained himself well in that situation.

After leaving Leicester, he studied law, with the Hon. D. A. White, then of Newburyport, and established himself in Dudley. He remained here a short time, and then removed to Cambridge, where he resided and practised law during the remainder of his life. He was several times a representative of that town in the General Court, where he held a good rank for diligence in business, and soundness of judgment. He died in 1850.

REV. JOHN FIELD was of a class of men by no means small, who, with great diligence, great conscientiousness, and very respectable talents, are never particularly successful in life. He was a native of Oakham, and was graduated at Williams College, in 1807, at the age of twenty-seven. The next year he was employed as English preceptor of the academy. He had all the maturity which even many more years than he had seen, could ordinarily give one, and, after the close of his engagement here, he devoted himself to the study of theology, a profession which, from the first, he had intended to pursue. He was licensed and ordained over the church and society in North Wrentham. After a few years' connection with this people, he was dismissed, and removed to Ohio, where he continued to preach, though I have not ascertained that he was ever again settled over any society.

He died, at the age of forty-eight, in the year 1828.

DAVID BRIGHAM finds a place here, although he was preceptor of the English department for, I believe, a single term only, in 1819.

He was a native of Shrewsbury, born August 15th, 1786, and graduated at Cambridge, 1810. After graduating, he was employed awhile as tutor at Bowdoin College.

He studied law, and practised his profession in several different towns, at first, I believe, in New Braintree. From there he removed to Leicester in 1817, where he remained something over two years. He removed to Greenfield, and became a copartner with the Hon. Samuel C. Allen. There he married a daughter of Jerome Ripley, Esq. He removed to Shrewsbury, and, after a few years, removed again to Fitchburg, where he still continued his profession. After some time spent here, he was induced, by strong encouragement held out to him, to remove to Iowa, where he died, in 1843, at the age of 57.

Mr. Brigham was a fine scholar, a good writer, a sound lawyer, and a pleasant and agreeable companion. Yet his success in life was never such as these qualities are ordinarily calculated to secure. Nor did he lack industry in his devotion to business. He was a man of a good degree of wit and humor, a little specimen of which was often repeated at the bar. Awaking, one night, at his boarding-house, where his fellow-lodgers were somewhat free in their manners, he found himself between two of his brethren in the same bed. Almost gasping for breath, he remarked, "Sure enough, the profession *is crowded*," and yielded, for the rest of the night, the privilege of such a place of repose. As a teacher, both at Bowdoin and at Leicester, he was acceptable and successful, and, had he adopted that as his pursuit in life, perhaps greater eminence would have repaid his devotion to his calling.

Whether others of the English or associate teachers of the academy ought to be noticed here, I am not fully informed. They are not intentionally omitted.

Of some of those who were assistants for a short period, I have the means of presenting a brief notice.

HON. PHINEHAS BRUCE was the earliest of those. He was a native of Leicester, and was born in 1762. His father,

George Bruce, once kept a public house upon what is called "Mount Pleasant." The son, while a member of Yale College, was employed, in 1785, as an assistant of Mr. Payson. He was graduated in 1786, studied law, married a sister of the Hon. James Savage, of Boston, and commenced practice in Machias, Maine. He was an uncle of the Hon. George B. Upton, of Boston. He rose to considerable eminence in his profession, and, in 1803, was elected to Congress, and subsequently a second time, but never took his seat, being stricken with that dreadful malady, insanity, from exposure, and over-tasking his powers in the business of his profession. And, it being before the light of modern discoveries in the science of mental disease, he was never fully restored.

He was a man of fine, prepossessing manners, good abilities, and possessed, to a high degree, the respect of the public, and the confidence and esteem of his friends.

He never so far recovered as to be able to resume his profession.

Before his election to Congress, Mr. Bruce had been a member of both branches of the legislature of Massachusetts, and, in every place which he was called to fill, he acquitted himself with great credit, and was universally esteemed as a man of fine powers, and of those qualities which could not fail to commend him to public favor. He died October 4th, 1809.

DR. STEPHEN BALL was of Northboro', the son of a physician of the same name.

He was employed, as an assistant, under Mr. Adams, a short time, in 1791. After leaving the academy, he became, himself, a physician, and, through a long life, sustained a high reputation in his profession, in his native town, where he always resided.

JAMES DAY, ESQ., was an assistant of Mr. Foster, in the English school, in 1802, for nearly a year.

He was born in Wrentham, December 19, 1778, and, ten years afterwards, removed to Paxton. He was fitted for

college at this academy, and was graduated at Cambridge, in 1806, in the same class with several who had fitted at Leicester Academy, among them, Daniel Henshaw, Esq., whose name has often been referred to in this report.

After leaving college, Mr. Day taught the Derby Academy, at Hingham, one year. He then studied law with Chief Justice Ward and Judge Prescott, in Boston, and commenced business in his profession, in that, then, town. After four years, he removed to Roxbury, where he was engaged, as a teacher, for three years. After that, he was seven years engaged, as a teacher, in Salem, and subsequently, for three years, he taught a private school, in Boston. The balance of his life he spent in retirement, upon his farm, in Paxton, where he died, December 16th, 1853, at the age of seventy-four years. If the life of a good schoolmaster is one of usefulness, Mr. Day may have been regarded as a public benefactor, as he was an excellent private citizen.

EDWARD A. SELFIDGE was an assistant of Dr. Shattuck, in 1803. He was brother of Thomas O. Selfridge, Esq., and was born in Hubbardston. Both brothers fitted for college at the academy. Edward was graduated at Dartmouth, in 1805.

He was a good scholar, of a strong and vigorous mind, and well calculated to become eminent in the profession—the law—which he had chosen. But he was cut off while engaged in his studies, and left only the memory of early hopes and bright promises eclipsed.

JOSEPH SPRAGUE, Esq., who was an assistant, in 1808, for a short time, was a native of Leicester, the son of Capt. William Sprague. He was, for many years, a prominent citizen of Brooklyn, N. Y., and mayor of the city, at one time. He died in the year 1854, at the age of seventy-one.

DR. SETH WASHBURN was an assistant, in 1816. He was a native of Leicester, the son of Joseph Washburn, and grand-son of the first trustee of the name. He studied his profession partly with Dr. J. H. Flint, already mentioned,

and died in the midst of a full professional practice, at Greenfield, in January, 1825, at the age of thirty-four.

Of the female assistants, one only, I believe, has died.

MISS ELIZABETH HOLMES was the daughter of Dr. Jacob Holmes, an eminent physician, formerly resident in Athol, where she was born, and, during the latter years of his life, in Leicester.

She was educated at that excellent school whose reputation was so long sustained, and at which so many of the best-trained minds in New England were educated, Miss FISKE's, at Keene.

She was a woman of strong, quick powers of mind, refined by cultivation, and strengthened and disciplined by study and reflection.

The extent to which these, and her services in the academy, were appreciated by the trustees, will appear from resolutions adopted by them, in view of her death, in 1849:

"The board of trustees have learned, with deep regret, the decease of Miss Elizabeth Holmes, for the last thirteen years an accomplished and esteemed teacher in Leicester Academy, and that they tender their sympathy to the mother of the deceased, in her sudden and great bereavement."

She died at the age of thirty-five.

The employment of a female assistant teacher, was somewhat of an experiment when Miss Holmes was selected for the place; but the success which attended it, under her administration, left it no longer an experiment.

In closing this chapter of this little work, I cannot forbear indulging in grateful reflection, as I recur to even these brief notices of the men who have successively filled the chairs of instruction in this academy. Here are names of which any institution may be proud; not confined to the mere school-room, or the round of the teacher's duty, but associated with, and eminent in, every profession.

They came to the institution, many of them in the freshness

and vigor of early life ; and they gave to it the best energies and warmest aspirations of a young man's mind. And their success, as teachers, was often but the earnest of their success in the wider and more exciting arena of active life. I could have wished that a more able pen, with far more leisure to perform the work, had undertaken the task of preserving the memorials of these men, in their connection with the academy. May he who carries out this record, as one after another of these men shall be gathered to an honorable grave, bring to it a capacity equal to the desire of him who has gone thus far, to do the work well.

CHAPTER VI.

THE form of a new chapter, for the closing pages of this part of this little work, is adopted rather to indicate the point at which it stops, than the contents, which, as a distinct chapter, it is to contain.

The list of stewards, so far as I have ascertained them, is as follows :

1785,	Jonas Stone, Esq.
1807,	Amos Smith.
1808,	Capt. Daniel Hubbard.
1813,	Daniel Upham.
1816,	Joseph Maynard,
1819,	Hiram Knight.
1822,	Charles King.

Since which time, Mr. John Loring, Billings Hobart, Delphos Washburn, and others, have held the place.

In respect to what properly forms a part of the subject of this chapter, the distinguished men and women who have once been pupils of the academy, the topic is too broad to attempt it at present.

There is no complete catalogue of the students of the academy, preserved ; nor can one, at this late day, be made.

It is, therefore, only by personal appeals to others, aided by my own recollection, for something less than half a century, that I have been able to gather up the names of some of those who would be embraced in the category of distinguished pupils.

But the very catalogue before me, gathered, in no small degree, from the recollections of Daniel Henshaw, Esq., reminds me that the completion of this work must be the result of the patient and extended labor of a future hour.

Among those whom I have not named already, of the living as well as the dead, we find the sons of Leicester Academy—those who, at some time, have been members of the institution—men eminent in every calling and profession of life—the professions, the army, the navy, the halls of Congress, the Senate of the United States, and the judicial and executive chairs of government, have each had their representatives from this academy.

Among these I name, almost at random,—

The Hon. William L. Marcy, now Secretary of State of the United States; the Hon. William Upham, late a Senator in Congress, from Vermont; Rev. Dr. Spring, of New York; Hon. John Davis, Governor of the Commonwealth, and Senator in Congress; Hon. Ebenezer Lane, late Chief Justice of Ohio; the gallant Col. Aspinwall, formerly of the United States army, and for many years consul at London; Augustus White, who fell on the deck of the Chesapeake; Hon. David Henshaw, once Secretary of the Navy; Hon. Pliny Merrick, and Hon. Benjamin F. Thomas, Judges of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts; Dr. Hedge, the learned Professor in Harvard College; Hon. Virgil Maxy, the gifted and eloquent advocate, who, while Solicitor of the Treasury, fell by the same catastrophe that destroyed Secretary Upsher on board the Princeton; Milton Maxy, his brother, more than his equal in brilliancy,—the student of Alexander Hamilton; Henry B. Stone, Esq., so many years the President of the Suffolk Bank; Nathan Guilford, Esq., late of Cincinnati, deceased; Rev. Dr. Brazer, late of Salem; and Rev. Dr. Church, late of Pelham, N. H. And if to these I were to add the names of those once pupils of the academy, who have made their influence felt, as the graceful, and dignified, and gifted wives and mothers of the leading men of their day, the task, though a

pleasant one, would require a degree of time and labor which is not now at my command.

Whether, in carrying out the original plan of this work, this or another hand shall be employed to trace the history of any of these, they will ever be among the jewels of which the academy may be justly proud.



3 9031 01023595 0

DATE DUE

FEB - 3 1999

APR 02 2002

GAYLORD

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

